Hong Kong **Asks Court** To Explain **Birth Ruling**

Some See an Attempt To Press Own Judiciary In Bid to Calm Beijing

By Mark Landler
New York Times Service

HONG KONG — Seeking to quell a bitter legal dispute with mainland China, the Hong Kong government filed a motion Wednesday asking its high court to clarify a landmark ruling that had provoked objections from Beijing. "We have looked at the concerns expressed by a lot of parties," said a overnment spokesman, Stephen Lam. Because there has been such great concern in the community, we have decided to seek clarification.

Late last month, the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal ruled that children born on the mainland of Hong Kong parents had the right to residency here. Officials in Beijing criticized the decision as a violation of the Chinese Constitution and warned that they wanted it "rectified."

The move Wednesday rattled legal experts, who said the Hong Kong government appeared to be pressuring the court to retreat from the ruling before Beijing forced its hand.

"This is close to a government sub-version of the court," said Yash Ghai, an expert in constitutional law at the University of Hong Kong. "I would almost prefer if China took the action itself and bore the responsibility." China has not formally demanded

that Hong Kong overturn the ruling. But many people here say that if the local government does not mollify Beijing, it will likely repudiate parts of the decision during the annual meeting of the Chinese National People's Con-

gress, or Parliament, next month. Such a move could stain Hong Kong's reputation as an international financial center, which depends in part on having courts that operate williout meddling from Beijing.

By asking the court to explain its decision, the Hong Kong government is raising some nettlesome legal issues. Lawyers here said they were not aware of a precedent in Hong Kong, or any other common law jurisdiction, for a government to ask its highest court to reconsider a decision.

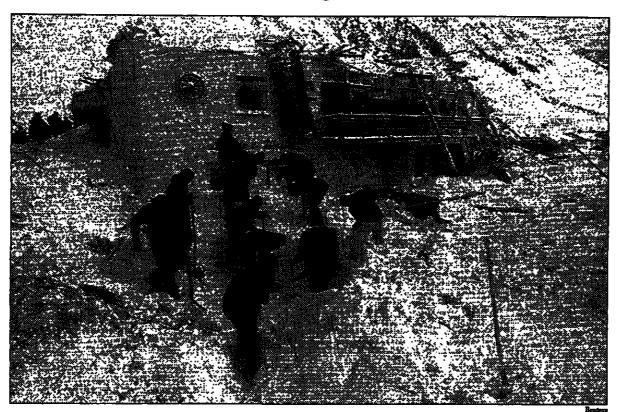
Mr. Lam insisted that the government was not acting on orders from Beijing, though he acknowledged it had taken China's objections into account. He also said Hong Kong was not trying to overturn the ruling.

"This is a very special case," Mr. Lam said. "It's not like from now on, whenever the court makes a ruling we don't like, we're going to file a motion." In its effort to resolve the dispute, Hong Kong has seized on the fact that Beijing does not object to the substance of the ruling—that some mainland Chinese children have the right to live here. What troubles Beijing is that the court said it had the right to strike down Chinese laws, if they

violated Hong Kong's constitution.

Some legal experts here said China was misreading the ruling as an attempt to place Hong Kong's courts above the National People's Congress. Daniel Fung, Hong Kong's former solicitor general who is now a visiting fellow at "Yale Law School, said the court had asserted the right to invalidate Chinese laws "only insofar as they affect Hong

Dozens Still Missing in Austrian Snow Disaster



Rescuers digging in deep snow Wednesday outside an almost buried chalet in the Austrian village of Galtner.

By William Drozdiak **Washington Post Service**

BERLIN - As parts of Europe suffered some of the heaviest snows in a half-century, a wave of murderous avalanches roaring through the Alps left at least 16 people dead and dozens missing Wednesday in Austria and stranded tens of thousands of tourists at some of the continent's most elite

In one of Austria's worst snow disasters for decades, the death toll after a 16-foot wall of snow smashed into the Tyrolean village of Galtuer on Tues-day rose to 16 Wednesday, with 29

more people missing.
When another avalanche Wednesday buried houses near the neighboring resort of Ischgl, Austrian authorities began laying plans to evacuate the entire region. Six people were re-ported buried in the latest avalanche.

This is the kind of catastrophe that we have not had for centuries," said the provincial governor, Wendelin Weingartner, as he supervised emergency operations involving dozens of helicopters ferrying supplies and evacuating the injured to hospitals at Landeck, 25 miles away. Tyrolean police said many of the missing were

See ALPS, Page 4

Hard-Liner Resistance Imperils Deal With Kosovars

and Peter Finn

The division raises the prospect that even if a

the next two weeks — an outcome that many ethnic

If that happened, it would follow a historic pattern among revolutionary movements confronted by popular demands for compromise and peace and the

Under the terms of an agreement cobbled together

"in principle" but needed until March 15 to discuss the terms inside Kosovo and gauge popular reaction. But even if most civilians here support the accord, gaining the endorsement of an estimated 10,000 guerrillas in the Kosovo Liberation Army will be critical to

The debate within the rebel ranks is expected to intensify when the commanders who took part in the talks in France return to the Kosovo capital of Pristina

See KOSOVO, Page 6

Olivetti Races To Add Funds For a Heftier Telecom Bid

By Alan Friedman and Daniel Liefgreen International Herald Tribune

ROME — Olivetti SpA, fighting fiercely to keep alive its takeover bid for Telecom Italia SpA, was scrambling Wednesday to raise about 23 trillion to 25 trillion lire (\$13.5 billion to \$14.7 billion) in additional funding, financial

sources in Milan said. They said, however, that it was still unclear by how much Olivetti would increase its original bid of \$58 billion in cash, shares and bonds.

"When we present the formal bid, we may not increase the price immediately," an executive close to Olivetti

Analysts predict that the bid will have to be increased by as much as \$10 billion, raising the ante in what is turning into the most dramatic hostile Euro-

pean corporate takeover battle in Shares in Telecom surged past Olivetti's previous offer price of 10 euros per share on last-minute buying Wed-nesday to close at 10.60 euros (\$11.66),

np 5 percent.

That added \$2.6 billion to the market

value of the company.

The Milan sources said that Olivetti's board, which met late Wednesday, was to approve the calling of a special shareholders' meeting that would authorize Olivetti's management to carry out a 5 trillion-lire capital increase that would help finance the cash component of the

In addition, Olivetti would probably raise another 18 trillion to 20 trillion lire through a subsidiary, Tecnost, that is being used as the vehicle for the takeover bid.

Analysts have said the Telecom bid peeds to be sweetened if it is to have a

See DEAL, Page 4

New Clashes In Indonesia **Put Military** To the Test

Shoot-on-Sight Orders Fail to Stop Religious Violence in Provinces

> By Atika Shubert Special to the Herald Tribune

JAKARTA — Ethnic and religious clashes have killed more than 20 people in the past two days in eastern Indonesia, local media reported Wednesday, just one month after more than 100 people were killed in rioting in the island chain of Ambon.

In a bid to quell further unrest, the Indonesian military has issued shoot-onight orders and threatened to court-martial soldiers disobeying the command. After massive riots last month in Ambon, the military mobilized thousands of soldiers to riot-prone areas, but failed to contain two consecutive days of ethnic and religious violence in the provinces of West Kalimantan and Ambon.

At least 3 people in Ambon were shot and killed when soldiers fired upon mobs to disperse them. The Associated Press reported Wednesday. Last week, police officials in Ambon confirmed that soldiers mistakenly fired into a crowd fleeing toward military barracks after an explosion in a residential area. A nun was shot through the neck in the

By Wednesday morning, relative calm had been restored in Kalimantan between feuding Malays and migrants from the island of Madura, but rival Christian and Muslim groups in the province of Ambon continued to patrol the streets armed with machetes, homemade explosives and bows.

Ambon has been the site of the country's worst violence this year and remains tense despite the presence of more than 2,500 troops on the small

Military officials said that attempts to prevent unrest throughout the archinelago have stretched security forces too thin and more "repressive measures" need to be taken.

In addition to the shoot-on-sight order, the military has started a plan to draft and train more than 20,000 civilians in neighborhood security groups to bolster overworked security forces. Massive budget cuts and consistent

criticism by nongovernmental groups on the military's human rights record have further demoralized the military and eroded public trust. 'We have the responsibility to en-

force the law." said Major General Agus Wirahadikusumah, senior advisor to Indonesia's armed forces chief. "But if the people don't abide by the laws, how can we enforce them?' The fresh violence is the latest in a

series of massive riots that have plagued Indonesia since former President Suharto stepped down from power in May and ended his 32 years of auto-Elections have been scheduled for

June, but President B. J. Habibie is struggling to prevent outbreaks of ethnic and religious violence in previously peaceful regions that threaten to derail election plans in this diverse island na-

Since Mr. Habibie came into office, at least 300 people have died as a result

See INDONESIA, Page 4

	The Dollar	
New York	Wednesday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
Euro	1.1000	1.1007
Pound	1.5965	1.615
Yen	121.67	120.92
DM	1.7881	1,777
FF	5.9628	5.9598
Dollars per poi	and and per euro.	
	The Dow	
▼	Wednesday close	percent change
— 144.75	9,399.67	— 1.52%
₹	S&P 500	
<u> 17.77</u>	1,253,41	1.40%
	Nasdaq	
◆		
36.95	2,339.40	— 1.55%

Albanian officials and Western diplomats predict - a Washington Post Service hard-line minority might resist a requirement in the PRISTINA, Yugoslavia — A split within the rebel accord for general disarmamen

By R. Jeffrey Smith

army fighting for the independence of Kosovo became transparent Wednesday, as several senior rebel commanders who attended negotiations in France indicated they supported a tentative peace accord while a coterie of hard-liners back home appeared to be pre-

paring to try to scuttle the deal.

AGENDA

Close to Baghdad

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. jets Wednesday launched their closest strikes to Baghdad since Operation

Desert Fox, attacking two surface-to-air missile sites 50 kilometers (30

miles) from the capital, officials said. Air-raid sirens sounded in Baghdad

for the first time since Christmas Eve

Alien Rights in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that ali-

ens in the United States illegally have

no right to ask federal courts to stop

deportation based on selective enforce-

ment of immigration rules. The ruling

allows the government to deport seven

Palestinians accused of supporting ter-

rorism. Their lawyer says the decision

limits all aliens' free-speech rights.

An Old Clinton Story Emerges

as air defenses opened fire.

majority of the rebel commanders endorse the deal in

viability of any cease-fire here would be threatened. less than two hours before the talks ended Tuesday, the ethnic Albanians said they supported the agreement

Texas Rangers escorting John William King from the Jasper County

Courthouse in Texas after his conviction on murder charges. Page 3.

EU Farm Policy, a '60s Concept Gone to Seed in '90s

Page 10.

Pages 8-9.

Pages 18-19.

By Barry James .

BRUSSELS — After 37 years of mounting subsidies, Europe's Common Agricultural Policy has become a creaky edifice that consumes almost half the annual budget of the European Union yet leaves millions of farmers rather badly off in relation to the rest of

the population.
Conceived when memories of World War II and food shortages were still fresh, the policy was designed to maximize production. By guaranteeing minimize production of the policy was designed to maximize production. imum support prices, it rewarded most those who produced most, which means that its benefits have become skewed heavily toward better-off farmers and large corporations.

Yet efforts to shift this aid away from production support toward direct aid to farmers with the most need have been life, the tissue of European rural society met with a chorus of protest across and a program that stands as the most met with a chorus of protest across

Europe.

Fearing loss of income after what has been a bad year for much of European agriculture, tens of thousands of farmers demonstrated Monday

NEWS in Brussels. The protest ANALYSIS was aimed at agricul-ture ministers, who began marathon talks aimed at ensuring that spending on the Common Agricultural Policy, which is usually known as the CAP, does not exceed its present annual budget of 40.4 billion euros (\$44.4 billion) from 2000 to 2006.

visible symbol of European integration.
Officials at the European Commis-

sion, the EU's executive body, which is driving the movement for radical change in the policy, point to various

Treasons for the proposed retorm:

• With governments under pressure to curb public spending to meet the strict criteria for membership in the European the EU cannot stand

• Burope will not be able to cure forthcoming world trade talks with agricultural prices pegged substantially higher than world prices, nor will it be single corrency, the EU cannot stand aloof from the imperatives of austerity. Solving the farm problem is a key element in reining in the EU's budget in the At stake, the farmers say, is a way of

Agricultural support is unequally

distributed and is concentrated on regions and producers that are not among

the most disadvantaged.

• The policy designed for a community of six nations will not be able to stand the strain of bringing up to 11 more countries, heavily dependent on

able to take advantage of the expansion in international markets, Subsidies, protectionism and bureaucratic manage-

See EUROPE, Page 4

Growing Pains: Why Hopes for Global Biotech Treaty Withered

Newsstand Prices Behrain......1.000 BD Malta... Cyprus.......C £ 1.00 Nigeria 12500 Naira Gibrelter........£ 0.85 Rep. Ireland....IR £1.10 Great Britain.UK £1.00 Saudi Arabia.....10 SR Egypt........£E 5.50 S. Africa R16 incl VAT

CARTAGENA, Colombia - Attempts to forge the world's first global treaty to regulate trade in genetically modified products failed Wednesday as negotiators could not bridge a divisive gap between American business interests and other nations' concerns for the environment.

By Andrew Pollack

The final breakdown came when the United States and a handful of other big agricultural exporting nations rejected a proposed Biosafety Protocol that had the support of the rest of the roughly 130 nations. That blocked the consensus

who have been negotiating day and night for more than a week, expressed fury at the United States, accusing it of being intransigent and of putting the interests of its world-leading farming and biotechnology industries above the interests of the

"It's five nations against the world," said Joseph Goto, the delegate from Zimbabwe, referring to Washington and its allies, which actually number six, Canada, Australia and three agricultural exporters from the developing world -Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. "There could be no greater injustice than that." The United States, he added, "is bolding the world at ransom."

needed for a treaty.

Officials here said the big stakes involved for
Bleary-eyed delegates from many other nations, industry made it difficult to reach an agreement.

The delegates agreed to suspend the talks for now and resume them at some point in the future,

"It's the first time that you have really possible a legally binding instrument dealing with trade and the environment at the same time," said Veit Koester, a Danish environmental official who chaired the working group that drew up the draft of the treaty.

It perhaps complicated things that the industry involved was biotechnology, which could be the industry of the next century and one in which the United States holds a firm lead. There have been a rising number of disputes in recent years between developing and developed nations over the control of genetic resources, the raw material for biotechnology, which some analysts predict will be to the next century what oil and metal were to this one. The delegates agreed to suspend the talks for

no later than May 2000. The United States had urged this, saying there were still too many unresolved issues to allow a consensus to be achieved by the deadline, which was Tuesday.

"It would be much better to get a sound instrument a year hence than to get a flawed instrument today," said Rafe Pomerance, deputy assistant secretary of state for environment and

exporters of genetically modified organisms, such as seeds into which new traits had been added by gene-splicing, to obtain approval in advance from the importing country. Such regulations are de-

The Biosafety Protocol would have required

See TREATY, Page 4

Sexual Assault: Allegation and Denial

Another Clinton Story Emerges

By Felicity Barringer and David Firestone New York Times Service

EW YORK — The allegation was passed on to reporters for the Los Angeles Times and The New York Times in the waning days of the 1992 presidential campaign. Regarding it as the kind of toxic waste traditionally dumped just before Election Day, both newspapers declined to use the story — that a nursing-home executive had been sexually assaulted in 1978 by Bill Clinton, who was then the attorney general of Arkansas.

The rumor persisted on the Internet, even after a sworn denial by Juanita Broaddrick, the woman involved. Mrs. Broaddrick reversed berself last spring during questioning by investigators for the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr. Last month, during the impeachment process, she decided to make the assault charges public in an interview with NBC News. Then the interview was not broadcast, and she chafed.

Now, Mrs. Broaddrick has told her story to several news organizations. including The New York Times, an account of an encounter with Mr. Clinton in an Arkansas hotel room. She says that Mr. Clinton invited himself to her room and then attacked her.

Mr. Clinton's personal lawyer, David Kendall, has strenuously denied the charge. "Any allegation that the president assaulted Mrs. Broaddrick more than 20 years ago is absolutely false," he said in a statement released on Friday in response to reporters' inquiries. "Beyond that, we're not going to comment."

Mrs. Broaddrick's allegation has

problems. There is no physical evidence to verify it. No one else was present during the alleged encounter in the hotel room in Little Rock, Arkansas, nearly 21 years ago. The hotel has since closed. And Mrs. Broaddrick had denied the encounter in an affidavit in January 1998 in the Paula Jones case, in which she was known only as "Jane Doe No. 5." pressed by the Jones lawyers, lemed the degration. Now she has

canted that denial. Her accusation has long been fod-der for Mr. Clinton's legal and political opponents. Despite the problems with the accusation, it became part of the impeachment process in Congress, pushed by conservative House Republicans even after Mr. Starr made only a glancing reference to it in

a supplement to his report. At least one senior Republican House investigator, pushing hard for the president's removal, told some undecided Republicans that Mrs. Broaddrick's story would probably become public and that they would look bad if they voted against impeachment, two House Republicans said.

While it appears that the allegation swayed few, if any, votes in the House or Senate, it hardened opinion against the president among some of the dozen or so representatives who were led to materials on the case in a secure room in the Capitol, Republican officials said. In some cases, reading the Broaddrick files ended the representatives' qualms and made them feel at peace with their decisions to support impeachment, the officials said.

■HE SHADOWY, subterranean path the allegation traveled also illustrates the mechanics of national news organizations after a year of White House sexual scandal.

Never homogenous, the national press is divided in ever-smaller slivers, with smaller outlets on the Internet and cable television sometimes overwhelming the slower and more sober judgments of mainstream news

From her home in Van Buren, Arkansas, Mrs. Broaddrick said in an interview this week that she had decided to air her charges in the NBC interview because she was exasperated by erroneous descriptions of the encounter on the Internet and on a cable television talk show in December.

Mrs. Broaddrick, now 56 and the prosperous owner of a nursing home and an extended-care facility, gave her account to The New York Times over the telephone. It is the following: When Mr. Clinton made a cam-

paign stop in Van Buren in April of 1978, she approached him and discussed nursing homes. He told her that if she were ever in Little Rock, they could talk further.

She attended a conference in Little Rock a few weeks later with her friend and employee, Norma Rogers, then the director of nursing at Mrs. Broaddrick's aursing home. She telephoned Mr. Clintonand agreed to meet him in a coffee shop. But he phoned back and said he wanted to avoid some reporters and suggested meeting in her room. Shortly after he arrived there, she

and tried to kiss her, succeeding only in biting her upper lip, hard. Then, she said, he forced her down on to the bed and had intercourse with her. "I was so totally surprised, totally

said. Mr. Clinton moved close to her

shocked," she said. Afterward, she said, he got up from the bed, put on his sunglasses, and while walking to the door, said, "You'd better put some ice on that," referring to her bruised and bitten lip.

Then he left. Mrs. Rogers and another friend of Mrs. Broaddrick, Susan Lewis, said she told them of the incident at the time. Mrs. Rogers said she entered the room and found Mrs. Broaddrick cryupper lip was puffed out and blue, and appeared to have been hit. "She told me he forced himself on her, forced her to have intercourse," Mrs. Rogers said in an interview this week.

Mrs. Broaddrick said she decided not to see a doctor about her lip, because the swelling had gone down.

At the time, Mrs. Broaddrick said, she was having an affair with a married man, Dave Broaddrick, who has been her husband for the past 18 years. She told both Mr. Broaddrick and Mrs. Rogers not to reveal what she had told them, because she was convinced no one would believe her.

"What was I doing in a hotel room with the attorney general?" she said. 'No, I never even considered coming

Mrs. Broaddrick's account had not seemed to leak out until she was approached during the 1992 campaign by Philip Yoakum, an opponent of Mr. Clinton whom she knew from Arkansas. He insisted that she make her accusations public. She refused.

Five years later, she said, she was approached by lawyers for Paula Jones, whose sexual harassment suit against Mr. Clinton was settled last year. Mrs. Broaddrick rebuffed them. "I just didn't want to drag my family through this," she said.

N THE ADVICE of her lawyer, Bill Walters, a Republican state senator, she said she agreed to let him call a friend of his, Bruce Lindsey, White House deputy counsel. After the call, the president's lawyer, Robert Bennett, faxed Mr. Walters an affidavit that another woman had used to deny involvement with Mr. Clinton. Mrs. Broaddrick said that Mr. Wal-

she then signed it on Jan. 2, 1998. Contacted on Tuesday, Mr. Lindsey and Mr. Bennett would not comment. The affidavit read, "These allegations are untrue and I had hoped that they would no longer haunt me, or cause further disruption to my family.'

ters changed the names and facts and

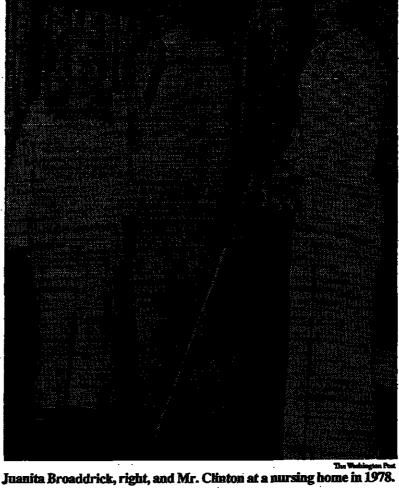
After Mr. Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky surfaced, she said, she started to get calls from reporters, but she refused to comment. Then she heard that prosecutors in the office of Mr. Starr were going to approach her. She discussed her options with her husband and her son, Kevin Hickey, a lawyer, and they decided she could not lie to federal investigators.

She recounted most of her story to FBI investigators and told them that no one from the White House had evertried to pressure her to stay silent. In the white-hot partisanship surrounding the impeachment debate, details of Mrs. Broaddrick's charges ri-

cocheted around Capitol Hill, where

about a dozen representatives ex-

account as well.



amined the detailed account that Mrs. Broaddrickgave to investigators. Several organizations, including

The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal, carried brief news accounts of the congressional interest in the allegations, without any details. In late January, Lisa Myers, an NBC

reporter, arrived in Little Rock with her producers and camera crew. On Jan. 30, the CNN program "Reliable Sources" included a discussion of the status of the NBC interview. Robert Bartley, the editorial page

editor of The Wall Street Journal, saw the program and decided to send Dorothy Rabinowitz, one of his columnists, to see if she could interview Mrs. Broaddrick. She wrote a lengthy article, which was published on The Journal's editorial page on Friday.

After her piece was published, Ms.
Rabinowizz persuaded Mrs. Broad-

drick to repeat her story to The Times. People inside NBC who spoke on condition of anonymity said that network executives believed that the interview needed extensive corrobor-

For months Mrs. Broaddrick had seemalking to another reporter, Lois: Romano of The Washington Post, off the record. When Ms. Rabinowitz's piece appeared, Mrs. Broaddrick agreed to let Ms. Romano publish her

Leonard Downie Jr., the executive editor of The Washington Post, said the decision to publish was not easy. "Even when we saw the Rabinowitz column," he said, "I wasn't certain we'd be publishing the story.'

'Our aim was to provide the entire story," he said, "a story about something that she had said, that she had told some journalists and some investigators and, a number of years ago, a friend.'

The New York Times also hesitated.

'We talked long and hard about whether to publish anything," said Bill Keller, the managing editor of The Times. "The merits of the allegations are probably unknowable. Legally, it doesn't seem to go anywhere Congress isn't going to impeach him again. And frankly, we've all got a bit of scandal fatigue.
"But these allegations played at

least some small role in the impeachment of a president. And our readers. who have doubtless encountered the story in other places, are entitled to read our best take on it."

On Tuesday, NBC News amounced: that the interview would be broadcast on Wednesday night. Andrew Lack, the president of NBC's news division, said Tuesday, "We were working our way through a process that was not completed until today."

Legal Fund Of President Has Raised \$4.6 Million

By Don Van Natta Jr.

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WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton's legal defense fund has raised \$4.6 million in the last year, buoyed by didirect-mail campaign that blamed Kin neth Starr and the congressional impeachment process for saddling the first family with "a staggering personal debt" of nearly \$9 million, according to

several supporters.

The fund, the Clinton Legal Expense
Trust, has raised \$2.4 million since August from 35,000 donors, eclipsing the most optimistic projections of the president's supporters and the \$2.2 million raised in the trust's first six months of operation last year, according to the supporters who were briefed Tuesday on the progre

Small donations - \$10 here, \$20 there - have poured in, the supporters said, but there have also been \$10,000 checks from corporate executives and Hollywood friends.

Like the president's continued strong showing in public opinion polls, the trust's windfall is a measure of Mr. Clinton's enduring popularity despite being the first elected president to be

Several supporters said the trust's success also reflected the opinion among Mr. Clinton's supporters that the inquiry by Mr. Starr, the independent counsel; and the impeachment proceedings were inherently unfair and deeply partisan.

"The direct mail has been off the

chart," said one supporter who helped raise the money and spoke on the con-dition of anonymity. "The president has never been more popular. And there is a lot of sympathy for him. We didn't have to ask most people twice for help." With more than half of the Chintons

debts erased in a single year, supporters said Tuesday that there is a strong chance that the entire legal bill could be paid by the time the president leaves office in 23 months. "No president, especially a president,"
who has worked as hard for the Ameri

ican people, should be burdened with this kind of debt when he leaves office, said Terence McAnliffe, one of Mr. Clinton's closest friends, who raised much of the money for the trust. Mr. McAuliffe declined to discuss how much money the trust had raised.

Some advisers of the president have said that Mr. Clinton's total legal bills in his two terms could exceed \$10 mil-

Brasing those bills is a major concern Bodham Clin! of the first lady, Hillary Rodham Clin! ton, who has told her advisers that the debt is a factor as she decides whether to seek a Senate seat from New York in

Washington Scorns Iraq Policy Critic

By Philip Shenon New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - The State Department has asserted that a new book by Scott Ritter, a former United Nations weapons inspector who contends that the CIA helped plan and conduct weapons searches in Iraq, is inaccurate, misleading and could "only serve Saddam Hussein's propaganda machine.'

The department said Tuesday that statements by Mr. Ritter, whose book lends support to long-standing Iraqi accusations that UN inspection teams were nenetrated by U.S. spies, were "con-istent only in their inconsistency."

Mr. Ritter and his book were also denounced by Rolf Ekeus of Sweden, a former head of the UN Special Com-mission, or Unscom, which conducted

He said Mr. Ritter was engaged in "destructive fantasizing" in suggesting such close ties between the CIA and the Mr. Ekeus also disputed Mr. Ritter's

speculation of a tie between a UN inspection team that was sent into Iraq in 1996 that, according to the book, included CIA officers with an agency-inspired mission that may have been a

The State Department and Mr. Ekeus

Correction

A Page One caption in editions Wednesday incorrectly identified one of the officials walking with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright just outside the Kosovo peace talks. On her left was Hans van den Broek, the European Union's external affairs commissioner.

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published in April.

He also says that "CIA covert para- was nothing surprising or new.

were responding to a report about Mr. military operators" were placed on Ritter's book in The New York Times, teams that searched for evidence of Iraqi which obtained galley proofs of the chemical and biological weapons. book, "Endgame." The book is to be A State Department spokesman,

James Foley, did not deny a central Mr. Ritter says in the book that he element of Mr. Ritter's book — that the worked closely with a senior agency official, beginning in 1992, to plan "the largest and most complex inspections."

CIA had placed employees on the teams and that they had helped direct the inspections. But Mr. Foley suggested there

TRAVEL UPDATE

Violence in Mauritius May Bring Curfew

PORT LOUIS, Mauritius (AFP) - President Cassam Uteen of the vacation island of Mauritius threatened Wednesday to clamp a curfew on the island after three people were killed in riots. The disorders were caused by the suspicious death of a popular reggae singer,

Kaya, while in police custody.

President Uteem promised a judicial inquiry into the death.

Slow-Down Time for Drivers in Montana

HELENA, Montana (AP) — This huge and sparsely populated state in the West is about to end its status as the only U.S. state without a daytime speed limit. On Tuesday, lawmakers sent a speed-limit bill to Governor Marc Racicot, who has promised to sign it. As drafted, the law will take effect May 28, the eve of the Memorial Day weekend of heavy travel,

Under the measure, cars and light trucks would be limited to 75 miles (120 kilometers) an hour on interstate divided highways day and night, except in areas near Billings, Great Falls and Missoula, where the maximum would be 65 mph. The limit on two-lane roads would be 70 mph in daytime and 65 mph at night.

Montana has not had a posted daytime speed limit since 1995, when Congress did away with a federal highways limit away with a federal highway limit.

2 Airlines in Japan Merge Ticket Operations

TOKYO (Bloomberg) — Japan Airlines Co., the nation's largest international air carrier, agreed to form a joint venture with the No. 3 Japan Air System Co. to share domestic ticket reservation and sales systems.

The move will enable each of the two companies to save more than 1 billion yen (\$8.3 million) a year. The computer systems will come on-line in 2001.

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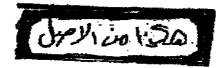
WEATHER

crope					Forecast for Friday through Sunday, as provided by AcculWeather.
		day		POTON	
	High	COWW COF	High Cit	LOW W	
EVO	13/85	945 oc			
terders	643	641 8	11/52	6/43 /	
	2/35	-4/25 pc	2/37	-1/31 i	
	1253	9/46 pc		6/43 r	
celone. Tracia	14/57	9/48 ti -6/24 en	15/59 4/39	6/46 pc -1/31 pc	
h .	2/85	0/32 pc	643	6/43 en	
inglis Deresi	7/44	6/41 pg	1255 439	7/44 ch	
pereel	4/30	-425 s	4/39	-425 pc	
	1/34 2/35	-524 c 1/34 ps	2/35 6/43	1/34 po	
xenhagen Na Del Sol	235 12/53	2/34 pp 8/46 ah	14/67	10/50 r	
	11/52	6/43 eh	248		
برجون	17/32	6/43 sh	7/44	-2/29 a	Unseasonably Unseasonably Heavy Heavy Cold Wern Pain Heavy
ence	P/48	-1/31 pz	11/62		Jeann Cold Where Plain Rein Snow
nickert .	1/34 5/41	-2/29 pc -1/51 pc	9/37 7/44	3/37 sn 4/39 sb	
يوري فراغ	-1/31	-11431 DE	-426		
	7/44	5/41 pc	849	0/32 /	Flurries in New England Windy and mild in London Sunny, dry and mild in
<u>.</u> .	0/32	524 =	425		Friday, then milder and dry Friday, but rainy in Scot- northeastern China Friday
Palmes	19/56	1457 0	16/61	1955 pc	with some suretime Satur- land. Windy and colder through the weekend, but
on don	13/55 8/46	944 pc 643 a	16/61 12/53	9/48 pg 3/37 ah	
Hid	94B	643	1457	4/30	er a mana cinay na masaking south and suid a lib mis cary so calcing at Works in
OTCE.	16/61	6146 c	16/61	7/44 c	rain from interior New Eng- ports. Dry and mild in cen- from the northwest. Tolor
Ω	1050	0492 +	1255	4/30 pc	land to New York and trai and southeastern could have a shower Fri
ich	-1/31 2/35	-6/18 c -6/22 pc	-425 846	-918 sn 236 c	
	1457	7/44 c	1386	9/48 c	the chance for showers in Spain into north Africa will sunshine over the week
•	-2/20	-8/27 cc	6/43	-6/22 c	the Midwest. Sunny, warm be chilly with rain. Stormy and. Hot and dry across and dry in the Southwest. with rain and snow over southwest Asia and most of
•_	843	2/35 pc	11/52	4/36 ah	
davik	0/32 3/87	-425 pc -327 sn	841 256	2735 c -5724 sf	iceland. India.
_	327 327	423 51	-1/31	-1/31 ef	Maps, forecasts and data provided by Accollisation, Inc. @1900 - http://www.accommether.com
	1457	4/30 ah	13/55	E/41 s	
Angeorge,	327	-6/22 m	-4/25	-8/18 af	North America
å Athoka	205	-5/24 an	2/36	-\$27 pc	
sbourg	-327 541	-818 st 032 pc	1050	-3/27 en 641 c	High Tona High Tona High Tona High Tona 1984 1984
	-829	-7/20 m	-3/27	-6/24 c	
#	14/57	1/34 pc	14/57	541 sh	Anchorage -425 -164 pc -9/18 -18/0 to 1 Minoseppile 4/89 -18/1 e 2/44 -18/1 e
ico COL	7/44	-2/20 s	11/52	458 pc	Affacts 17762 7/44 pc 19/56 6/43 pc Montreal -4/25 -11/15 c -4/31 -8/16 p
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ddle E	ast				Delegit 9/57 -2/29 of 6/43 -1/51 pc Saur Fram. 16/51 9/48 on 15/99 9/48 c
Oheb		21/70 s	2000	21/70 pc	_ Handalu 27/60 20/66 pc 25/64 19/66 pg Seattle 10/50 5/17 / 10/60 4/10 ≥
5 m2	16/61	248 pg	16/61	9/46 a	100 - 101 -
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à	29/84	1966 pc		1864	Legend: e-surray, po-partly cloudy, o-cloudy, att-showers, Hituadecatoms, r-rain, at-anow flumbs, an-anow. Hos. W-Wester.
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21/70 17/82 m 21/70 20/66 / 21/70 19/66 / 20/66 19/66 / WEEVEND CUI REDODT

Resert		pfk U	Min. Piste	Res.		r Lest	VEEKEND:	Resert	De	_	Ma	Res		now Lest	
Andorra		_			_				<u> </u>			- FRE		214 200m	Continuents
Soldeu	100	110	Feir	Open	Var	23/2	All Pis open 3/5 avelenche risk of piste	Italy Bornio Cervinia			Good Good	Open Classet	Pedr Pedr		All little upon, good ski conditions .
Austria								Cortine	50		Good	Open	Perk		Closed for most of the week. Not an much arrow as other results
ischol	170	370	Good	Closed	Peedr	202	Moch closed due to avalenches	Cournayeur	90		Good	Open	Petr	24/2	Many It's closed this week
Kitzbuhei	100	240	Good	Score		24/2	Good skiling, olipiate is a little heavy	Livigno	83	188	Good	Open	Pedr	23/2	All Ets open pil venik, super skill i
Lech	250	380	Good	Some	Pedr	242	Mossiy completely stast, &5 availanche des	Selva	60	80	Feir	Open	War		Good show depths at lest, our fir some good siding
Maytholen						24/Z _ `	Some pistes closed								
Obergund				Closed	Pack	2222 ·	Resort mostly closed this week.	Horway					•	٠,	
Soll				Open		242	Some areas closed, some good	Geilo	60	80	Good	Open	Pwd	242	Al litts open with perfect conditions
St. Anton	100	800	Good	Closed	Pedr	24/2	Recort closed, availanche nak								
Canada								Switzerland					•		
Lake Louise	148	188	Good	Ocen	Peck	242	All like open, occasional Surries	Crens Montana			Good	Open	Pedr		\$40cm on glacier, Ambad siding
Whistier						292.	Weather cleaning, great conditions	Davos			Good	Open	Pedr		Some little open on treat grant
France	_						menus careft Sarr colorate	Klosters			Good	Closed	Perk		Some Mis open, more will open
Alpe d'Huez	407			~				Murren .			Good	Closed	Perk		Nearly completely closed all week
Les Arcs						24/2	Most lits open entering score	Saze Fee St. Moritz	120		Good -	Closed	Pedr		Not many lits open today
Avoriaz				Open Open		24/2	Greet stating on priority of powder	Verbier			Good Good	Ореп	Pectr	23/2	All life open by hiddenek, good
Chemonix						24/2	Over helf of area open now				Good	Şamış	Pinte		Very firsted skiing this week
Courchevel						242	Not mech open, very story	Zemet				Closed	War-	202	Resort needly exempletely closed
-	мф	-	9999	H-PARIT	المعن	242	Limited string during storme, great			200	Good	Open	Pedr	23/2	Quite limited aiding
Les Deux Alben	120	220	Good	Воти .	Peak :	84/2	CONCRIOUS OTICS WORKER INTERPRET	U.S.							
Flaine						24/2	Experiencing Braked aiding this week Closed for much of the week	Aspen	400	188	Good	Coen		-	AU - 1
Megeve						40	Plant great state of the Antick	Breckersidge			Good	Open	Pedr	22/2 22/2	All planes open, great stang
Méribel	100	280				242	High sessenction task and pitch satisfic	Crested Butte			Good		Prot	202	All lits open, clusting at new snow,
La Plagne							Bray managent, tables, as about japes,	Deer Valley			Good	Coes	Perk		All life open with maily good aiding
St. Gervals	135	220	Good			342	Record to named open all week	Maramoth			Good	Com	Peer		All trails and itts are open Some great skiller
Serre Chevaller	35	70	Fair I	Open.		29/2	Fair conditions prevail	Park City			Good	Open	Pedr		
Tignes ·	210	314	Good			24/2	Present mostly closed all weak	Val			Good	Coseu	Park		Skilling its planty of fresh powder 30 little open, very cold but good soll
Val d'Inère				Open	Pectr	24/2	Limited siding hypnyrico					open.		E UE	व्यवस्थाः इयः संस्था कोम्बारं अस्ति द्वाद्यं क्षत्र वैद्यवद्यः अस्य
Val Thorens	210	290	Good (Open .	Pedr	242	Better conditions	Winter Park	160	200	Good	Open	Padr	202	Nextly all lifts open
Germany Garnisch	40	120	Good	Öpes	Parts :	29/2	540cm atow on glacier, some main -	KeysL ₁ D; Depth in ca	a en k	New C	and uppe	rsiopes.	Min.	Pistos Ma	Fishelde pietes. Place. Places Ref

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Of President Independent Counsel Law Is Bipartisan Target that only the most senior government members. A panel of three forficials, like the president and vice judges selects the counsel. Tradesce to Examine Reno I

limits and cost limits.

to stop its reauthorization.

protection. .

adependent counsels was enacted in

1978 as a way to insulate investigations

dismissal of Archibald Cox, a special

The statute requires the attorney gen-

eral to seek the appointment of an in-dependent counsel when there is sub-stantial and credible evidence of a crime

by the president or any of a number of

other senior government officials, rang-

WASHINGTON — As the Senate opens hearings into the statute authorizing independent counsels, the Watergate-era law looks well on its way to becoming a casualty of the impeachment battle, with senators of both parties predicting that it will be heavily revised or killed off entirely.

With sentiment against independent counsels growing in both parties, Senator Fred Thompson, the Tennessee Republican who chairs the Governmental Affairs Committee, said his committee sould see in hearings that were to start Wednesday whether there were ways to revise the Independent Counsel Act But, he warned, "the burden is on those who want to keep it alive in its current

Also signaling dissatisfaction with the law under which Kenneth Starr con-ducted his investigation of President Bill Clinton, Senator Tom Daschle, Democrat of South Dakota, the minority leader, said, "I intend to do what I can to see that it's terminated."

And an unlikely pair of senators — Mitch McConnell, the Kentuckian who is chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, and Christopher

gether to see the legislation expire when it comes up for renewal this summer.

'In 1978, with the noblest of intentions, both Republicans and Democrats embarked on a path of mutually ensured destruction by passing what could be called the ultimate law of unintended consequences," Mr. McConnell said. In a perverse sort of way the independent counsel law has actually diminished the importance of ethics in

'With an independent counsel lurking behind every tree, the public is no longer alarmed when a public official is of wrongdoing by high government of-ficials from political interference. It was spurred by the Watergate scandal, dur-ing which Richard Nixon ordered the

Mr. Dodd, who had supported the statute in the past, said that it had "criminalized the political process to such a degree that it's no longer enough to dismissal of Archibald Cox, a special defeat your opponents. If you can indict prosecutor who lacked any statutory them and also incarcerate them, then the

campaign battle's not over."

Senator Don Nickles, the majority whip from Oklahoma, said that the law is "in trouble." He added, "It has to be reformed significantly or it won't be reauthorized, in my opinion."

Among the many proposed revisions ing from the vice president to cabinet are limits on who would be covered so members to senior White House staff Mr. Starr's work.

that only the most senior government members. A panel of three federal ■ Judges to Examine Reno Probe other possibility is limiting investiga-

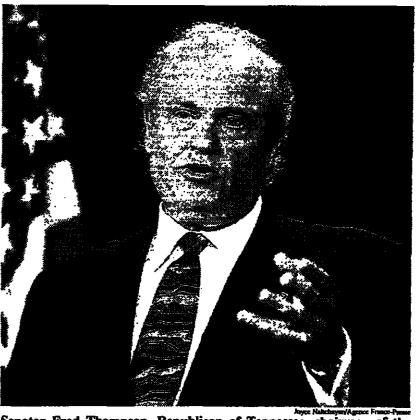
Roberto Suro of The Washington Post tions to actions that have taken place while an official was in office or seeking eported earlier:

The federal judges who appointed Mr. Starr have decided to intercede in an escalating dispute between the independ-Other lawmakers would impose time ent counsel and Attorney General Janet Whether such changes could save the law is not clear. Mr. McConnell said Reno over her intent to investigate Mr. Starr's handling of the Lewinsky matter. In a one-sentence order made public flatly that the law was not salvageable and hinted that he and Mr. Dodd were Tuesday, the judges agreed to decide whether Ms. Reno's inquiry should be prepared to lead a filibuster, if need be, The law allowing the appointments of

halted, setting the stage for a court battle that will bring to public light a legal fend thus far conducted in secret which could produce new revelations about the origins of the investigation that led to President Clinton's impeachment.
The three federal appellate judges

charged with overseeing the independ-ent counsel process acted in response to court papers filed Feb. 16 by the Landmark Legal Foundation, a conservative advocacy organization. The group claimed that the Justice Department lacked authority to investigate an independent counsel and asked that the judges order Ms. Reno to halt her inquiry because of its potential to interfere with

partisan primary.



Senator Fred Thompson, Republican of Tennessee, chairman of the committee reviewing the independent counsel law, briefing reporters in preparation for hearings on whether to retain the controversial law.

POLITICAL NOTES

Buchanan Readying Run

WASHINGTON - Pat Buchanan, who stunned the political establishment when his low-budget campaign triumphed in the New Hampshire Republican primary in 1996, is preparing a third bid for the White House in 2000, according to several close associates.

he may announce as early as next week.

Apart from his appearances as a commen-Apart from his appearances as a commentator, he has laid low in the past three years and Daley Wins Third Term not participated in many of the political forums that are frequented by prospective candidates. But several associates, most of whom spoke

on the condition of anonymity, said Mr. Buchanan told them he has grown bored with his television role and believes that the early Republican front-runner, Governor George Bush of Texas, was not as inevitable a nominee as was Bob Dole, the former senator from America's third-largest city a facelift.

Kansas, four years ago.

Kepublican front-funder, Governor George and Governor, an

among cultural conservatives in states with and the direction we have charted together. early contests, his candidacy would imme- Mr. Daley carried predominantly black wards diately complicate the race. Others who are and won support in every part of the city. already fiercely competing for their support

public office, he humiliated President George Bush by drawing more than 37 percent of the vote in the New Hampshire primary in 1992. Four years later, Mr. Buchanan won the New

On Tuesday, Tom Johnson, president of CNN News Group, announced that Mr. Buchanan had been granted a leave as co-host of the program "Crossfire," beginning Wednesday. "We wish Pat well in his exploration of a possible GOP candidacy," Mr. Johnson said. Some of Mr. Buchanan's associates said he may appearance as early as part week. in the seven-way race and avoid a runoff.

CHICAGO — Mayor Richard Daley easily extended his family's political dynasty, de-feating former Black Panther Bobby Rush to win a third full term. Mr. Daley won the election on Tuesday on the strength of a booming local economy, a highly publicized school

Given Mr. Buchanan's passionate support victory was "a vote of confidence in our city

"This victory was built with votes from all Chicago neighborhoods," Mr. Daley said.

Council. Like Mr. Bush, Elizabeth Dole, the former American Red Cross president, is undeclared but considered formidable.

Mr. Buchanan, 60, has long been underestimated as a politician. In his first bid for percent, Mr. Daley avoided a runoff by remaining office, he have like the president Groupe. ceiving more than half the vote in the non-

> In another election Tuesday, a Republican with a reputation for consensus-building won a special election for the House of Representatives seat vacated by Newt Gingrich. The only suspense for Johnny Isakson in a staunchly Republican suburban Atlanta district had been whether he would get a majority

Mr. Isakson, a moderate known for his ability to cooperate with Democrats, easily defeated six other opponents. With all pre-cincts reporting, Mr. Isakson had 51,548 votes, or 65 percent, followed by Christina Jeffrey, a professor at Kennesaw State University, with 20,116 votes, or 26 percent.

Gary Pelphrey, the lone Democrat on the ballot, had 4,014 votes, or 5 percent. No other candidate had more than 2 percent.

Quote/Unquote

Senator Trent Lott, the Majority Leader from Mississippi, after his first meeting with President Bill Clinton since the impeachment trial: "Our job here in Washington is to do the people's business, and that's what we're going include former Vice President Dan Quayle; Chicago neighborhoods," Mr. Daley said.

Steve Forbes, the publishing magnate; Senator.

Bob Smith of New Hampshire and Gary badly throughout the race, which showed that Bauer, who was head of the Family Research Mr. Daley, like his father before him, has people expect of us."

Mr. Rush, a four-term congressman, trailed across the party lines in the Congress and with the administration, to do what the American people expect of us."

(WP)

AMERICAN | Short Takes

TOPICS

In U.S., Teen Witches Are a Brewing Trend

Should parents worry if they find their teenage daughters huddling in a darkened room, amid candles and incense, chanting mysteriously while mixing, say, eye of newt and toe of frog, wool of bat and tongue of dog?
All right, forget the tongue

of dog. But the fact is, juvenile witchery, for fun or otherwise, has grown hugely in popularity among teenage girls, and books offering spell-casting instructions have become best-sellers.

One of them, "Teen Witch: Wicca for a New Generation," offers everything (it says) that a kid needs to become a "pentacle-wearing, spell-casting, completely au-thentic witch!" That includes instructions for such uniquely teen rituals as the Bad Bus Driver spell, the UnGround Me spell and the Just-Say-No spell, reports U.S. News & World Report. "Teen Witch," in its third

printing, is part of a New Age boom spawned by such films as "The Craft" and "Practical Magic" and the popular television program "Sabrina the Teenage Witch."

Some child-development experts, however, find the how-to sorcery books vaguely creepy and troublingly authoritative-sounding. The U.S. Catholic Conference frowns on spells that, for ex-

ample, incorporate stuffed an-imals and "holy water." Not to worry, says Silver Ravenwolf, the pseudonymous author of "Teen Witch." Her young readers will not be

sacrificing the family pet. She disavows Satanism. Educators, meanwhile, say that if parents find their children with books on witchery they should sit down for a good talk — not take the books away.

Unlike the little piggy of

fairy-tale fame, Sherri Simmons of Minneapolis is not afraid that her straw house will be blown down. Part of an experiment by a

low-income-housing group and ecologically minded builders, her new home is made of 1,600 bales of straw, each wrapped in plastic to resist rot and then covered with stucco panels. Similar construction has

been used for centuries from Mongolia to Morocco, and has enjoyed some popularity in the U.S. Southwest, reports the Los Angeles Times.
But Ms. Simmons lives in

one of the coldest cities in America. No problem, she says. Even with the mercury well below zero, her heating bills are lower than before. And she's rather gotten to like that faint whiff of a Minnesota wheat field.

As cars speed up Route 15 Lewisburg, near Pennsylvania, many drivers do double-takes at a roadside billboard: They see a woman wearing underwear, striking a

But this is no Victoria's Secret lingerie ad; it is a 67year-old woman in a girdle, proudly showing off her age spots and ample waistline. Bucknell University is ex-

hibiting a photograph that Melanie Manchot, 32, shot of her mother, Margaret. It is artwork posing as advertising, a statement, says the younger Ms. Manchot, about empowerment."
"Look at you loving me,"

reads the slogan. Not all in the conservative

town are loving her, however. But Christiane Andersson, a Bucknell art history professor, shrugs off the criticism. "Is she beautiful? Why do

we think she is, or why do people not think she is? It tells us everything about our so-Something about the eye of

the beholder?

Brian Knowlton



Republicans Are Warned Not to Snipe Inside Party

By Richard L. Berke

WASHINGTON - In a stem lecture to prospective presidential candidates in 2000, Jim Nicholson, chairman of the Republican Party, has warned that he will publicly rebuke any contender who personally attacks another Republican.

"Do not let it become personal or pasty or mean in spirit," Mr. Nicholson said Tuesday in a speech in Des Moines, lowa, the state that fraditionally holds the first presidential cancuses. "Even in the heat of the struggle, make sure you don't confuse people about who the real adversary is. Because if you sow division within Republican ranks, because if you forget who and what all Republicans are fighting for and fighting against, you will pay a price — I promise you."

Although it was a highly unit

statement at a time when most candidates have not yet formally declared their intentions, people close to Mr. Nicholson said he was trying to tamp down the sniping at Governor George Bush of Texas.

polls. Several of his prospective rivals have already sought to knock him down by questioning his credentials and his "compassionate conservative" slogan.

Some Republican advisers said Mr.

Nicholson timed the warning to precede the appearance of several presidential prospects — but not Mr. Bush — at a gathering of the California Republican Party this weekend in Sacramento.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Nich-olson said that some mailings from Republican candidates were "tougher than I would have liked," but that he would not identify those that bothered him. And he insisted that he did not believe that any of the criticism of Mr. Bush or of other candidates was thus far out of bounds.

Several people close to Mr. Nicholson said they thought Haley Barbour, the former party chairman, erred in 1996 by not halting Steve Forbes's multimillion-dollar attacks on Bob Dole. "We're trying to avoid a bloodbath,"

Mr. Nicholson said in the interview.

An adviser to Mr. Nicholson, who did not wish to be named, was even more blunt. "There's a concern that's beginning to curdle into unrestrained ter-ror," the adviser said, "that we're going to have a replay of '96: Gore raises his \$30 million in 90 days, banks it until he goes on TV — and blasts our guy. And the Republican nominee emerges bloody and broke.

Mr. Bush has not stated his intentions, but he is running far ahead in most early but he is running far ahead in most early but he is running far ahead in most early but he is running far ahead in most early but he is running far ahead in most early but he is running far ahead in most early but he m



Ross Byrd, son of Mr. Byrd, comforting his sister, Renee Mullins, after the verdict.

JASPER, Texas -- With exceptional swiftness, a jury has declared John William King, a white man, guilty of murder for dragging a black man to his death behind a pickup truck. They weighed white men charged with evidence Wednesday on killing Mr. Byrd, 49, in the whether he should be sen-

tenced to death. five days of testimony and barely an hour of closing arguments, chose its only black member as foreman and a half arguments. later with the strongest possible verdict.

"Justice has been served," said a tearful Mary Verrette, one of James Byrd Jr.'s sisters, as she emerged from the Jasper County Courthouse.
"It was not decided on emotion but on facts, and that's all we wanted. It could've happened anywhere in this nation, but it fell on us."

of State District Court but Mr. Berry. showed no other emotion, Mr. Byrd's relatives and others in the courtroom burst into applause as the jury rose to leave after the announcement. Mr. King is one of three

white men charged with early hours of June 7, 1998, nced to death. dragging him on a chain be-The jury began delibera- hind a pickup truck for three tions Tuesday after less than miles down rural roads in the pine woods east of Jasper. turned two and a half hours 31, who met Mr. King when the two were in prison, and Shawn Berry, 23, who has known Mr. King since high

Prosecutors argued that Mr. King was plotting to form his own white supremacist gang in Jasper — the Texas Rebel Soldier Division of the Mr. King, 24, slumped black man to help recruit slightly as the verdict was read by Judge Joe Bob Golden provide a blood initiation for

it the same way," said Guy James Gray, the Jasper County district attorney. "You can't put up with this sort of stuff. You can't tol-Gray and others said they were not surprised that it took the jury so little time to come

"I think any jury in the country would have decided

to a verdict. 'The evidence was overhear the verdict. "For once, they did something right in

Jasper."

In the punishment phase of the trial, both sides will argue which of the two potential sentences, death by lethal injection or life imprisonment, should be given to Mr. King. Prosecutors said they expec-Confederate Knights of ted the jury, whose decision America—and had hoped to will be final, to begin delibuse the grisly death of a local erating on punishment as early as Thursday.

Tomorrow

Travel deals, art exhibits, restaurant reviews and movie guides are just a few of the things you'll find in the Leisure pages. Written with the international reader in mind, this column offers a broad range of options on how to spend leisure time, regardless of where in the world you may be traveling.

Every Friday in the International Herald Tribune.



Away From **Politics**

 Karl LaGrand, a German citizen convicted of a 1982 killing in Arizona who asked to be executed by cyanide gas rather than by injection won a temporary stay from an ap-peals court that ruled the method cruel and unusual punishment

James Rodden, a convicted killer who sought clemency in Missouri after Governor Mel Camaban commuted the sentence of another death-row inmate - at the urging of Pope John Panl II — was executed by injec-

• Three satellites, including the first ones built by South Africa and Denmark, have been launched into orbit from Vandenburg Air Force Base in California after 11 mostly weather-related delays. (AP)

 An Indiana man has allegedly admitted to setting fire to as many as 50 churches

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By Elisabeth Rosenthal New York Times Service

BELIING - A Russian-made passenger jet crashed Wednesday during its descent into an airport in southern China, killing more than 60 people, according to officials at the airport in the southern coastal city of Wenzhou.

news agency; all were Chinese citizens. Airport officials said that there were also Chinese commercial air fleet. casualties on the ground in the densely populated coastal region.

The plane, a Tupolev-154 operated by China Southwest Airlines, crashed into fields about 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of Wenzhou at 4:29 P.M., said an official in the Wenzhou Airport Manager's Office, who gave her name as Ms. Lan. The plane was coming from the western city of Chengdu in Sichuan Province. She said the weather was calm and visibility was good.

port officials said they believed the plane had first crashed and then exploded. The area around Wenzhou is extremely mountainous, but Ms. Lan said the aircraft was

descending over a flat coastal plain. The crash will almost certainly raise questions about the safety of Russian planes in the country, which have been involved in a relatively high proportion All 61 people on board were killed, involved in a relatively high proportion according to Xinhua, the government of China's air disasters even though they make up only a tiny fraction of the

> China's commercial airlines have had a good safety record in recent years, industry experts say, and most commercial planes now in use are made by Boeing Co. and Airbus Industrie. These Western planes are used exclusively for international and major domestic

"China is absolutely passionate about air safety, and that's why you see aging aircraft — and those are mostly Russian and visibility was good.

The cause of the crash was not immediately apparent. Although initial regimer, managing director in charge of growth."

The cause of the crash was not immediately apparent. Although initial regimer, managing director in charge of growth."

ports described a mid-air explosion, air- aerospace for CIBC Oppenheimer, a New York investment bank, who has worked extensively in China.

Still, he called the Tupolev "not a bad plane," though he noted that it was probably more maintenance-intensive" than planes in the West. Only 7 percent of commercial planes in China

were Tupolevs in 1995.
Officials from the Civil Aviation Ad-Officials from the Civil Aviation Administration are investigating the crash, Xinhua said. The deputy director of the Propaganda Department for Southwest Airlines, who gave only his sumame, Xu, wound not give the plane's age.

Before the crash, the newspaper China Daily reported on Wednesday that China planned in spend \$1.2 billion to

China planned to spend \$1.2 billion to modernize its air traffic control system over the next 10 years.

"This incident is very unfortunate," Mr. Gallagher said. "In the face of an unprecedented expansion of its airline industry, China has demonstrated in-

ALPS: Dozens Missing in Village in Austrian Avalanche Disaster

Continued from Page 1

tourists from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.

The U.S. Army dispatched 10 mammoth Black Hawk belicopters from a base in Germany to assist in the rescue and evacuation effort, was delayed for more than 12 hours by heavy blizzards that have buffeted the Alps for the past

Local firefighters and police joined other volunteers who were desperately digging through the snow, some with their bare hands, in the search for sur-

The village of Galtuer is inhabited by 700 year-round residents, but its populations grows to nearly 4,000 during the peak of the winter ski season.

Survivors said that Tuesday's avalanche, which brought tons of snow hurl-

the village, struck with startling speed and violent impact late in the after-

That was not snow, it was like concrete," a Dutch tourist told Austrian

All across Europe, the accumulations of snow 12 to 16 feet deep — three to four times the normal level — have submerged houses, choked mountain passes and paralyzed road and rail traffic through parts of France, Italy, Switzerland and Austria. Alpine weather services said the risks of giant avalanches, known as the "white death," would remain extremely dangerous for the next several days.

As many as 60,000 people have been snowbound in the posh Swiss resorts of Davos and Klosters. In western Austria, more than 20,000 have been confined to

to the risk of major avalanches.

In recent years, a succession of rel-atively warm winters has diminished snowfall in the lower reaches of the Alps and prompted skiers to ascend to higher altitudes. A property boom in high-altitude ski chalets throughout the Alps has of 17 people held in police detention in sustained the high degree of prosperity in the northern province of Aceh last the region, but environmentalists say this month, military officers were recently

'Many more houses are being built in

ing down the mountain into the heart of their hotels—some for as long as a week the village, struck with startling speed and violent impact late in the after-blocked and commercial air service disrupted by the blinding snowstorms.

"The power of nature in the Alps has struck to an unprecedented extent in Switzerland as well as in Italy and Austria," said Chancellor Viktor Klima of Austria as he flew to Landeck to observe

the rescue operations.

Mr. Klima insisted that Austria had done all within its means to minimize the dangers from avalanches but that natural disasters of the scale that struck Galtuer

could never have been prevented. With hopes dwindling that many of the missing will still be found alive, the Galtner accident could rival the country's worst snow catastrophe in this century, when 56 people were killed in 1954 by an avalanche in Blons in western Austria

But environmental groups such as Greenpeace have challenged Mr. Klima's fatalism, saying that govern-ments have failed to recognize the dangers of global climate change and rapid ski tourism expansion at higher altitudes that have exposed more people

affluence has come at a perilous cost.

"More people keep moving up the mountain at a faster rate, and this is putting all kinds of stress on the ecology on amest, ethnic and religious feets and the infrastructure," said Irving technique to must make the military stress the armond the infrastructure," said Irving technique to must make the military technique to must make the military technique to mountain at a faster rate, and this is the despite the military's tough stand, and the infrastructure," said Irving technique to missing from the make the military technique to mean the make the make the military technique to mean the make the make the military technique to mean the make the make the military technique to mean the make the make the military technique to mean the make the military technique to mean the make the military technique to mean the make the military technique to mean the make the military technique to mean the military techn

Gerhard Mossberger, a Forestry Ministry official who is in charge of Austria's avalanche control system, says the country spends about \$50 million a year in trying to shield villages from the dangers of massive snowslides but that no amount of investment can ensure

complete protection. There is always going to be an element of risk in dealing with nature," he



Students demanding a transitional government Wednesday in Jakarta.

JAKARTA: 20 Killed in Fresh Violence

Continued from Page 1

of mob killings and riots triggered by

religious and ethnic tensions.

"At any moment people may hear something they don't like, a mosque burning or a bad government policy, and they become angry. Any moment may explode into a riot," said Arbi Sanit, a political scientist at the University of

Indonesia.

The rising violence has placed added pressure on the military to take tough actions against rioters, just as the military was trying to revamp its image, tarnished by allegations of human-rights abuses in the Subarto era. After the death

Continued from Page 1

bad image and endangers its legitim-

European farmers, who have jobs and

considerable assets, is hard to explain

while more than 10 percent of the EU's

work force, or about 18 million people,

have no jobs. Should farmers be rewar-

ded for producing surpluses when hun-dreds of thousands of steelworkers, coal

miners and other victims of post-indus-

trialism have been thrown out of work?

ward certain countries, such as France,

• The CAP is excessively skewed to-

an international context.

rural amenities.

be imposed if mass violence continues. ■ Shooting at East Timor Protest

At least one person was killed and eight were injured on Wednesday when panicked Indonesian troops fired on proindependence youths in Dili in East Timor, church officials and local journalists said. Renters reported.

"One person was shot dead and eight people were injured, including one university student who is in a critical condition with gunshot wounds to the bead," an official from the Motael church told Reuters from Dili. A local journalist said the dead youth

was a 23-year-old student. "The troops lost restraint and just opened fire on the group after an alleged

Syarwan Hamid, minister of home the territory has mounted since Jakarta

Bleak Data on Medicine **Food for Iraqis** The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS, New York -Secretary-General Kofi Annan, presenting a bleak assessment of the humanitarian situation in Iraq, has told the Security Council that bureaucratic delays in Baghdad and low oil pricate were preventing Iraqis from getting the food and medicine they needed.

Chief among Mr. Annan's concerns was that medicine imported through the UN oil-for-food program was languishing in Iraqi warehouses.

The secretary-general's report on Tuesday also said that malnutrition among infants and children under 5 years old remained at "unacceptably high levels." The oil-for-food program allows

Bachdad to buy humanitarian goods to care for its people who are suffering under UN sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. Only half of the \$540 million worth of

drugs and medical supplies delivered to Iraq since the program was launched in 1996 have reached hospitals and clinics, the report said.

Even though child malnutrition is unacceptably high, the Iraqi government has contracted for only \$1.7 million worth of high-protein biscuits for pregnant women out of a total allocation of

\$8 million, according to the report Bagbdad has submitted contracts for only 260 tons of infant milk, even though the United Nations has approved deliveries of 1,500 tons, the report said.

With pressure to lift or ease the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq, the Security Council has formed a special panel to make recommendations on improving the humanitarian situation in the country. The panel is scheduled to meet Monday and Tuesday. Still, even Mr. Annan seemed to ac-

knowledge that significantly upgrading the oil-for-food program was out of his

'The most serious issue facing the implementation of the program at present is the growing shortfall in revenues," the secretary-general said. "Re-" grettably, there seems little scope for optimism in regard to oil revenues in the immediate future. He also said Tuesday that he believed

UN forces had not been used enough to help solve the growing number of civil informer screamed to the troops that he and ethnic wars around the world, especially in Africa.

Enforcement of a settlement to many conflicts can require UN peacekeepers, with Amilali Said in a speech at Geortown University.

Mr. Annan said that despite the growing need, the number of UN forces deplaces and at altitudes that cannot be properly protected from the threat of heavy avalanches."

Solution of the first of the province in the

DEAL: Olivetti Races to Add Funds for Heftier Telecom Italia Bid

Continued from Page 1

chance of success. The deal would turn Olivetti into one of the 10 largest telephone companies in the world just three years after entering the business.

Olivetti's board also was expected to approve the sale of its fixed-phone operator, Infostrada, and its mobile-phone unit, Omnitel Pronto Italia, to Mannes-Meanwhile, Franco Bernabe, the

of "the worst of 1980s-style Wall Street

bid were to succeed, it would result in the the hands of the Germans.

breakup of Telecom and would destroy stroy shareholder value.

Wednesday that if Olivetti succeeded, it would probably fire 35,000 of Telecom's work force of 130,000.

mann AG of Germany. That move rounding up major Italian banks to sidiary. would raise about \$8.5 billion. provide more loans for the takeover bid. this bid could have a really negative

chief executive of Telecom, mounted a blistering attack on the Olivetti bid, saying in an interview that it reminded him gloves, added that "the folly of Olivetti's plan is that we would end up with a asset stripping."
Telecom group loaded down with debt while Olivetti's own phone businesses, in an interview, "is that if the Olivetti Omnitel and Infostrada, would end up in

One of the reasons that Italian stock value in both our mobile and fixed-line market regulators rejected Olivetti's businesses and above all it would deit was conditional on the sale of those He added that he had told trade unions two units.

Olivetti is racing against the clock because Telecom Italia's board is meeting Thursday and is expected to consider Mr. Bernabe also warned that since defensive moves such as a plan to merge Olivetti's merchant bank advisers were fully with its Telecom Italia Mobile sub-That move would substantially in-

crease the price of a takeover from about \$58 billion to as much as \$100 billion, analysts said.

According to one adviser to Olivetti, this could prove too high a price for the Such a transaction "would put the rice tao in the stratosphere," said a

price tag in the stratosphere," senior banker close to Olivetti. Mr. Bernabe was himself reprimanded by stock market regulators Wednesday for telling The Wall Street Journal/Europe that Telecom planned a merger with the mobile phone subsidiary as

part of his defensive strategy. The Telecom chief denied Wednesday having made such statements and said he did not wish to reveal whether he would propose the merger Thursday, but insiders said the move was highly

likely.

Some scientists worry, for instance, that if a plant were given genes allowing mobile and fixed-line telephone busit to produce its own pesticide or to produce a human pharmacentical innesses is one I have argued for inside our board of directors on many occasions,"

Mr. Bernahe said. Mr. Bernabe said the Thursday board meeting "will not aim at launching a poison pill against Olivetti but will accelerate plans and strategies that will weedy relatives of that crop through demonstrate to shareholders the real cross pollination, creating super weeds. value of our company,"

Italian law prevents companies subdefensive steps such as making acquisitions to boister their value.

In another development Wednesday, Deputy Prime Minister Sergio Mattarella said that regulators had opened an inquiry into high volumes of shares traded in the past few days to see whether there had been a case of insider trad-

He said regulators mounted an investigation Friday, when Olivetti shares surged as rumors spread of the imminent is in fact more urbanized than Germany,

EUROPE: Farm Policy of '60s Has Gone to Seed in the '90s

ment of production are not acceptable in • The world has changed since the more interested in food safety and qualtheir products by as much as 30 percent out further export subsidies. to enable the EU to export more com
In 1992, the EU carried out its first ity than the guarantee of supplies. Consumers pay twice - once through taxes to pay for farm support and then through high food prices. This gives the policy a

• The policy is bad for the environment. By rewarding productivity, it has led to intensive farming and pollution. A system of direct income sup-port would enable farmers to become steady decline. Since the proposal is to peg farm spending at its present level, rather than to reduce it, there will be custodians of the landscape and restore more scope for helping farmers with Massive support for the 7 million

"It is quite clear," Mr. Fischler said. "that the status quo is going to take us in one direction only: that is food mountains, lower quotas, falling farm incomes

and rural depopulation.

The commission, the EU's executive body, argues that by paying farmers for what they do, including improvement of the environment, rather than for what they produce, aid would be spread more fairly and a steady rural depopulation would be reversed

When the CAP got under way in 1962, and penalizes others, like Germany, there were twice as many farmers in six which bears a disproportionate burden countries as there now are in 15. Openof the EU budget. ended production support led to notori-Franz Fischler; the EU commissioner ous "mountains" of beef and butter and Rescue workers helped by a sniffer dog searching Wednesday for said. "You can never be 100 percent victims buried by an avalanche in the Austrian ski resort of Galtuer. safe."

CAP was introduced in 1962. People are more interested in food safety and qual-guaranteed prices that farmers get for expensive to sell on world markets withguaranteed prices that farmers get for expensive to sell on world markets with-

modifies without subsidies. The Euro- substantial reform of the policy by repean Commission rejects farmers' ar- ducing subsidies, imposing quotas and guments that they would be worse off paying farmers to take part of their land under the proposed change. paying farmers to take part of their land out of production altogether. Farmers More than half of Europe's farmers are more than 55 years old. Many have no heirs, and the farm population is in

More than half of Europe's farmers received compensation payments for loss of income.

By paying for something in constant By paying for something in constant

decline — people — rather than some-thing in constant augmentation — pro-duction — the EU was for the first time able to get a grip on farm spending.

The commission argues that the 1992

reform was a success that now needs to be extended much further. This inevitably means that there will be winners and losers, and countries are engaged in a struggle to maximize their gains and minimize their losses.

The hope is that the reform can be sealed at a summit conference in Berlin in March. Heads of state and government will meet near Bonn on Friday to review progress toward adapting the EU's budget for a community of up to 26 countries.

China to Veto UN Force's Stay In Taiwan-Friendly Macedonia

use its veto to block an extension of a Yugoslav republic established diplo- allow for the request of Macedonia." matic ties with Taiwan, China's UN ambassador said Wednesday.

to vote Thursday or Friday on the the resolution, we shall vote against resolution, which calls for the 1,000- the resolution," he said. member force to stay in Macedonia for another six months. Robert Fowler of Canada, the coun-

the presidency of the Security Council on March 1.

international peace. Despite its reser-

had voted in favor of the force because UNITED NATIONS -- China will Macedonia had requested it, he said. "Now, as is known to all, the situ-UN peacekeeping force's stay in ation has changed." Mr. Qin said. "So Macedonia because the former China no longer finds it necessary to

The force, he said, has completed its mandate and should be concluded. The Security Council was expected "When we have the meeting to adopt

China has only used its veto power four times before, most recently in 1997 when it voted against sending a cil president, said council members UN mission to Guatemala. Beijing were already considering alternative was incensed that the Central Amerforces in the country because of ican country had invited a Taiwanese China's position. China will assume delegation to attend a ceremony marking the treaty that ended its civil war.

China severed ties with Macedonia China's UN ambassador, Qin after it established diplomatic relations Huasun, said after the draft resolution last month with Taiwan, which Beijing was proposed that Beijing consistently considers part of its territory with no had opposed the extension of the force right to its own international relations. because it did not consider the situation. It severs ties with any country that in Macedonia to represent a threat to recognizes Taiwan as a nation.

Taiwan has diplomatic relations vations and concerns that the money with just 28 countries, most of them could be better used elsewhere, Beijing poor, small nations in Latin America.

which cultivates a rural myth but which TREATY: Attempts to Forge Worldwide Biotech Treaty Wither

Continued from Page 1

signed to allow countries to reduce the ecological risks from introducing genetically altered plants, animals and micro-organisms into the environment.

produce a human pharmaceutical, insects and soil micro-organisms could be exposed to such chemicals, with unknown results. Some worry that a gene conferring insect resistance or drought tolerance on a crop could spread to cross pollination, creating super weeds.

The United States has often taken a stance different from much of the rest of not be resolved was that Washington ject to valid takeover offers from taking the world on trade and environmental matters. It has not ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity reached at the Protocol, to prevent other nations from Earth Summit in Rio de Janerio in 1992 because some senators fear that Amer- trade barriers. The developing nations ican interests would be jeopardized. The and Europe wanted the biosafety pro-

The main sticking point in the biosafety negotiations was whether the requirement for advance approval by the

would entangle the world's food trade in red tape. The United States exports more than \$50 billion a year of com, wheat, soy beans and other agricultural commodities. And increasing percentages of the crops grown in the United States are

Developing nations and the European Union argued that commodities should be included because they have seeds that can be planted. Also, there is much more concern in these countries than in the United States about possible health effects from eating genetically modified

Another point of dispute that could wanted World Trade Organization rules to take precedence over the Biosafety using biosafety as an excuse to erect

importing nation should apply to generically altered agricultural commodities meant for earing or processing, as included, washies meant for earing or processing, as included agricultural commodities meant for earing or processing, as

opposed to planting. Washington and its negotiations three years ago, and many allies argued that such a requirement people at this meeting thought its real people at this meeting thought its real intention was to torpedo the treaty. The last two years of negotiation

have been a constant attempt to delay, not negotiate, block," said Chee Yoke Ling of the Third World Network, a Maiaysia-based group working on en-vironmental and development issues. Still, the United States, could have been isolated by the others since it is not a party to the biodiversity convention.

But it strengthened its hand by aligning with Canada, Australia, Argentina. Chile and Uruguay. "We were just too important, too big and maybe too thoughtful to be ig-

nored," said Mr. Pomerance, the American negotiator. He said Washington did make com-promises. But he added, "There were two compromises we were not prepared to make. One is to tie up made in the world's food supply. The second is to allow this regime, without a lot of de-liberation, to undermine the WTO trad-

ing regime." Both the U.S. government and the biotechnology industry would have something to gain from a treaty, were it

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INTERNATIONAL

Castro, Seeing Ruse by U.S., **Revives Cold War Rhetoric**

By Serge F. Kovaleski New York Times Service

HAVANA - President Fidel Castro has escalated political attacks against the United States and anti-government Coban dissidents to

Reviving the ideologically charged thetoric of the Cold War, Mr. Castro recently convened a special session of the National Assembly to consider harsh new penalties for dissidents, especially those seen as sympathetic to U.S. policies.

The Assembly's unanimous approval of the measures this month has sparked concern measures this month has sparked concern million in 1998 — and more than \$60 billion in 199

measures this month has sparked concern among foreign diplomats and human rights workers that Mr. Castro may be ushering in an era of greater repression in this Caribbean island passon of 11 million search island nation of 11 million people.

Already, some Americans visiting Cuba —, some in violation of U.S. law, some with .- say that Cubans have been reluctant to meet with them. But some independent Cuban journalists have continued to risk the wrath of foreign policy circles. officials here by speaking on the U.S. gov-enment's Radio Marti, which is opposed to the Castro rule.

Several top Communist Party officials have attacked Washington for refusing to lift completely the economic sanctions it imposed on Cuba 38 years ago.

The official party newspaper, Granma, has carried front-page stories attacking U.S. policies, saying in one article that the laws recently passed here are "a matter of refusing to allow the U.S. government to carry out its death sentence on the Cuban revolution."

. Meanwhile, on the economic front, Cuba said it would cut the bulk of its telephone links with the United States at midnight Wednesday if it did not receive overdue U.S. telephone service payments.
Several U.S. phone companies are with-

holding the payments, awaiting the outcome of a Florida court case involving efforts to seize Cuban assets in the United States by the rela-tives of the four Cuban Americans killed when transition." their small planes were shot down off Havana

The latest anti-American backlash began Jan. 5, when President Bill Clinton announced very time-consuming endeavor, adding that the would further relax restrictions on U.S. adopting the current steps was considered 1. Jan. 5, when President Bill Clinton announced trade and commerce in Cuba under a policy more productive.

charities affiliated with nongovernmental organizations while circumventing the Cuban government.

The measures would include increasing di-States and anti-government Cuban dissidents to a level not seen here since the Cuban Air Force shot down two civilian planes flown by anti-Castro activists from Miami three years ago.

The graying Cuban leader contends that the Clinton administration's decision last month to ease the U.S. economic embargo against

this Communistration's decision last month to ease the U.S. economic embargo against this Communist-ruled country is a ploy aimed at continuing efforts to undermine his 40-year grip on power.

Reviving the ideologically charged thetoric of the Cold War Communistration and the continuing efforts to undermine his 40-year grip on power.

Reviving the ideologically charged thetoric to ease the same the same while enhancing U.S.

ability to exert influence within Cuba. "They have sought to deceive the world,

since it was imposed after Mr. Castro declared Cuba a Marxist-Leninist state in 1961 — as a consequence of extra shipping costs, tougher credit conditions, higher import prices and lower export revenues, among other things.

Cuban officials characterized the easing of special permission from the State Department the blockade as a public relations stunt intended to soothe opposition to the sanctions within the international community and U.S.

They also said they were dismayed that in approving the new steps, President Clinton had rejected a proposal from two dozen senators of both parties to establish a commission to review all aspects of U.S. policy toward Cuba, including the embargo.

Havana has not suggested it will reject the steps proposed by Mr. Chinton but has said it will study the particulars before making any

U.S. officials defended the latest easing, the second such move in less than a year, as a humanitarian decision designed to help the people of this impoverished nation, which daily faces food and other shortages.
"Most people would consider the measures

a nice gesture, not something awful," a senior State Department official said. "It is superretro to think that the United States is trying to create independent spheres in Cuba to overthrow the government. We are trying to build The official said the Clinton administration

had decided against the special bipartisan commission because it would have been a

Sarah Kane, 28, Playwright With Nihilistic Themes, Dies CENA

By Warren Hoge New York Times Service

LONDON -- Sarah Kane, 28, a provocative playwright whose bleak view of the limitations of human relationships and graphic dramatizations of violence and sex earned her a reputation as an enfant terrible fresh cascade of negative arday in London.

Come to Seed in the '90s

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News Committee

dicide Rinter le Leenty With

She was found hanged in ther room at King's College Hospital where she was repression. The police said they were treating the case as a

Ms. Kane exploded onto shocked critics and brought her a flood of denunciations in the tabloids as a promoter of depravity.

The play depicted a rampaging soldier raping another by Britain and France. man and then gouging out his eyes, eating his tongue and forcing him to cannibalize a

ward Bond had an infant being stoned to death in a baby carriage in his play "Saved" 30 years earlier on the same Royal Court stage.

The theater, which has had new playwrights since its

two of the three other plays she was to write in her short high-profile career.

One of them, "Cleansed" last May, brought forth a Eternal Land." of the British theater, died Sat- comment on violent scenes.

Walter Lini, 57 New York Times Service

NEW YORK - The Revportedly being treated for deerend Walter Lim, 57, an Anglican priest who led the 83 Melanesian islands of Vanuatu and their 172,000 people to nationhood, died Sunday. The former prime

> Pentecost, one of the larger of what were then the New Hebrides, a Y-shaped cluster of islands administered jointly

serving as a priest and as lead-er of the New Hebrides Na-No play or playwright had tional Party when the colonial influence over caused such outrage since Edwithdraw by 1980.

a policy of presenting bold a French-speaking planter "Opening new playwrights since its named Jimmy Stevens led Near You."

1956 success with John Os- 600 bowmen to take control borne's ground breaking of the island of Espiritu
"Look Back in Anger," Santo Supported by some lostuck by Ms. Kane and staged cal French-speakers, Mr.

Stevens wanted to withdraw the island from the about-tobe-proclaimed nation of Vanuatu, which means "Our Mr. Lini sought aid from

Britain, which, over the objections of France, reluctantly sent 200 marines, who served as peacekeepers on Espiritu Santo long enough for the independence ceremonies to proceed on schedule.

Gene Siskel, 53, Critic New York Times Service

the age of 23 with her ni-hillistic first play, "Blasted," try for 11 years before he in a precocious debut that stepped down in 1991. Cene Siskel, 53, the taller half of the popular Siskel & Ebert team of dueling movie reviewers, died Sanndav at a Gene Siskel, 53, the taller stepped down in 1991. reviewers, died Saunday at a Mr. Lini was born on hospital near his home in Chicago, two weeks after leaving the long-running syn-dicated television program for further recuperation from brain surgery last May.

He had studied for the min-istry in New Zealand and was Roger Ebert, had made their signature thumbs up - or down --- verdicts a powerful tional Party when the colonial influence over a movie's suc-

Mr. Siskel, the movie re-Because his party dominated the colonial Parliament, Tribune, and Mr. Ebert, the Mr. Lini was poised to be-come prime minister. But a Times, teamed up for a local month before independence, public television program, a French-speaking planter "Opening Soon at a Theater

BRIEFLY

Israeli-Lebanon Clash

MARJAYOUN, Lebenon - Israeli warplanes attacked guerrilla infiltrators Wednesday near the Lebanese-Israeli border after a gun battle between the guerrillas and Israeli-allied militia, security officials said.
There was no word on casualties from the air strike or from the rocket, mortar and

artillery exchanges. There was no immediate comment from Israel on the fighting. The action came a day after three officers of an Israeli commando unit were killed and five wounded in a Hezbollah guerrilla am-

bush in southern Lebanon.

Eritrea Reports Attacks

ASMARA, Eritrea — Eritrea said fighting with Ethiopian forces raged for a third day Wednesday at disputed border territory

around Badme. Ethiopia launched a ground offensive Taesday along the Merch-Sent front near Badme in an attempt to recapture land oc-cupied by Eritrea in May. The thrust was preceded by a daylong artillery barrage and backed by Ethiopian planes.

"There is very intense fighting all along the Mereb-Setit front," the Eritrean govemment spokesman, Yermane Gebremeskel, said Wednesday in Asmara. Initial fighting on two other fronts east of

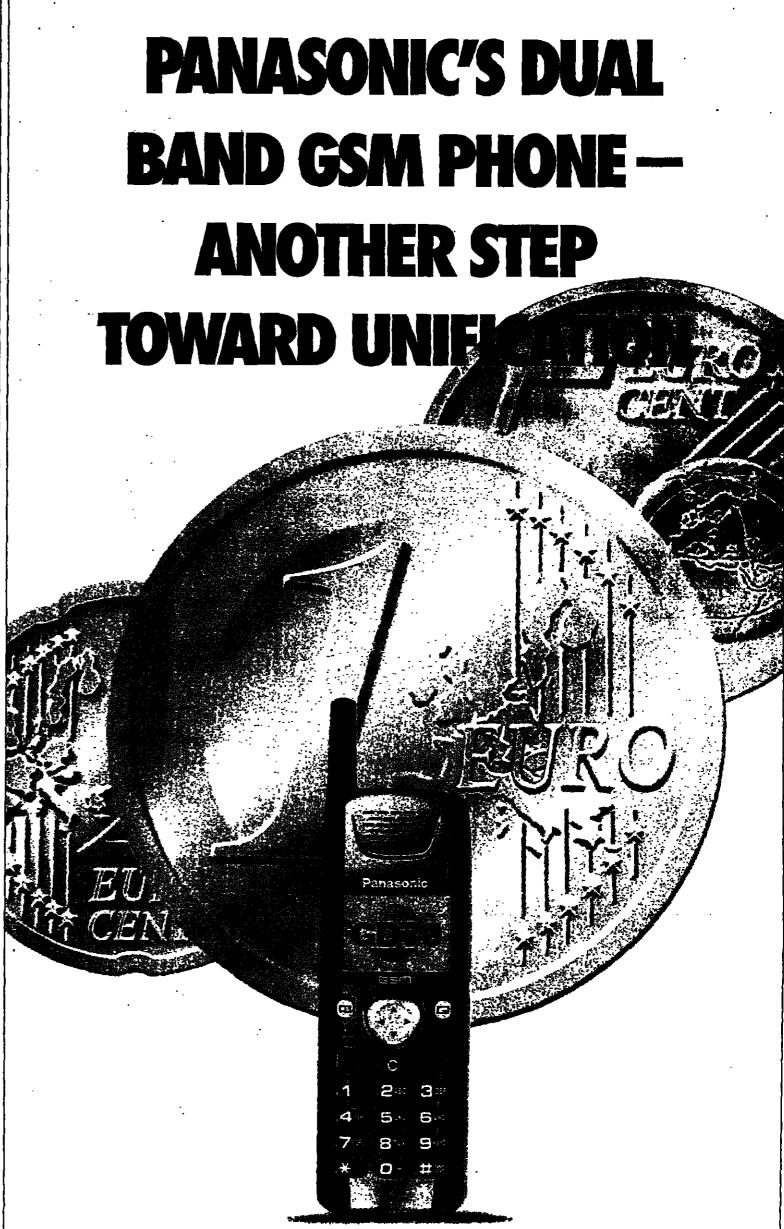
Badme died down by Wednesday, leaving Badme the only focus of the conflict, according to Mr. Yermane.

Brazil May Lift Ban

BRASILIA - Marcio Lacerda, who has taken over as president of the Brazilian government's Indian Foundation, has proposed lifting bans on logging and mining on Indian reservations so that Indians could derive revenue from these activities.

Mr. Lacerda, a former senator and state deputy governor, was chosen to head the foundation, known as FUNAI, after the death of the organization's president, Sullivan Silvestre, in a plane crash earlier this

"Outright bans have resulted in smuggling and illegal mining," he was quoted as saying in O Estado de Sao Panlo. "Done with guidance and assistance, the extraction of mahogany and mining can be a source of revenue for this population." (Reuters)



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In Germany, an Asylum Seeker Fell Into Limbo, Then Into Death

For Farid Guendoul, 28, the end came suddenly in this depressed East German young man in flight from the Algerian

The evening began innocently for Mr. to become German citizens. Guendoul at the Dance Club. Then a group of neo-Nazi skinheads arrived. An altercation. Frantic flight. An attempt to plunge through the glass door of an apartment building as his pursuers screamed "Auslaender raus!" ("Foreigners Out!") A severed artery in his knee.

"He bled to death in 15 minutes," said Petra Hertwig, a spokeswoman for the state prosecutor's office in the nearby town of Cottbus. Four neo-Nazi youths have been arrested on charges of manslaughter and breach of the peace.

The image of a young Algerian hounded to his death Feb. 13 by racists burling abuse has shocked Germany, stirring ministers to appeal for "civic courage" to fight xenophobia and prompting renewed questioning about the country's immigration policy. Yet, in its way, this was a predictable death.

BRIEFLY

Ukrainian Ex-Leader Seeks Asylum in U.S.

KIEV — Ukraine's fugitive former prime minister, Pavlo Lazarenko, is seeking political asylum in the United States, where he was detained over the weekend, his party said Wednesday.

Mr. Lazarenko faces charges of largescale corruption in Ukraine. He was detained over the weekend by U.S. immigration authorities in New York.

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service says the detention had nothing to do with the corruption charges but was linked to Mr. Lazarenko's having improper documents. It said he could be forced to leave the

Swiss Halt Lawsuit Against Bank Critic

BERN — The Swiss government has ruled out further action in a lawsuitagainst a lawmaker who criticized the country's role in World War II, the

Justice Ministry said Wednesday. Last August, a group of 21 Swiss conservatives filed the lawsuit against Jean Ziegler, alleging he spread "in-accurate and biased information" in his Cold at Dead," and that this endangered national security.

Wednesday's decision implied no udgment on the substance of the allegations against Mr. Ziegler's book, the ministry said.

Berlin March Honors Kurds Shot by Israelis

BERLIN - Thousands of demonstrators marched through Berlin on Wednesday to honor three Kurds shot by Israeli Consulate guards a week ago during protests over the capture of the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan.

About 6,000 people followed two hearses decorated with flowers and carrying the coffins of Sema Alp, 18, Ahmet Acac, 24, and Mustafa Kurt, 29. (AP)

By Roger Cohen New York Times Service

The state of Brandenburg, surrounding Berlin, has become home to a particularly noxious form of racism. As in cost of the former East Germany, unswastikas were daubed, and where the young Algerian immigrant lay and bled to death, carnations, tulips and irises are

The state of Brandenburg, surrounding but 18 months ago to seek asylum, the large textile factory of the communist of the search for identity gives rise to these rightist gangs."

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The town is particularly tense because there was no openness to the province of a decade ago.

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The town is particularly tense because the open the province reads to resemble to the serich for identity gives rise to these rightist gangs."

The town is particularly tense because the polish border. Manny of the community of the community gives rise to to death, carnations, tulips and irises are and anger simmering. Last year, 93 racist attacks were recorded there, includ-

ing several that led to severe injury. While the situation in the western part town. Here the hopes of a studious of Germany is far less tense, the problems of Brandenburg underscore the difbloodbath met the racist violence ficulties Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder spawned by Germany's uneasy unifi-cation of a capitalist West and a formerly laws that would make it easier for many of Germany's seven million foreigners

BRITAIN CONFRONTS RACISM — A memorial marks the Lon-

don bus stop where Stephen Lawrence, a black teenager, was

murdered in 1993. An overhaul of race laws was ordered Wednesday

after a report criticized the police force's handling of the murder.

Paris Seeks End to Blood Trial

Prosecution Seeks Acquittals in AIDS Contamination Case

court Wednesday to clear former Prime 1984 to 1986; Edmond Herve, secretary

Minister Laurent Fabius and two former of state for health in Mr. Fabius's gov-

manslaughter in a trial over a scandal of minister of social affairs, face up to five

government ministers of charges of

Jean-Francois Burgelin, the prosecu-

tor, said the two-week-old trial in a spe-

cial court had failed to produce evidence

that the former officials had committed a

"I do not think that the case deserves

sentencing by your high jurisdiction; my

conclusions are therefore leaning to-

wards acquittal," he told the Court of

Justice of the Republic comprising par-

liamentarians and professional judges. Victims' groups say that at least 3,600

people were infected with the HIV virus

AIDS-tainted blood.

Mr. Fabius, who was France's young-

ernment, and Georgina Dufoix, who was

years in jail if convicted of negligence

and delaying screening of blood donors for the HIV virus in 1984-85.

speaker of the lower house of Parliament,

has denied accusations of complicity in

keeping the blood screening test de-veloped by the U.S. drugmaker Abbott

Laboratories off the French market while

France's own Pasteur Institute completed

specially set up to try them, that they did

their best to deal with the budding epi-demic in the mid-1980s and history had

The former ministers told the court,

development of its own rival product.

Mr. Fabius, 52, a Socialist who is now

2,000 are left today and the unemployment rate has reached 23 percent. More than 6,000 people have departed. That leaves a population of 27,000 in this town, where the hopes kindled by the fall of the Berlin Wall have turned to ashes. 'A lot of people expected a different

kind of development, and they are dis-appointed," said Gottfried Hain, the mayor. "There is a general feeling of being besieged by competition, and that

pour into Germany every year cross that children who were born there and who border and the nearby Czech border are already in school. Some asylum seeking to benefit from Europe's most seekers have been here more than seven liberal asylum laws.

surrounded by barbed-wire fences. The rooms are adorned with pin-ups, televisions blare constantly, and the air is heavy with the pall of boredom, stale food and unwashed ciothes.

This is a peculiarly German labyrinth, formed by an uneasy combination of a still-liberal attitude toward asylum seekers rooted in memories of what political persecution can mean and a growing bureaucratic wariness driven by the pressure of foreigners on an ailing economy. Mr. Guendoul walked into it, never to emerge.

Like many others, Mr. Guendoul was

ears. Everyone receives food, lodging, More than 250 are lodged in the two centers for asylum seekers in the Guben marks (\$220) a month in cash and area, low-slung prefabricated homes coupons valid in local stores, and 500

> neo-Nazis, the kind who drove Mr. Guendoul to his death, appears to be small, racism seems deep-rooted in towns like Guben.

The eastern part of Germany was an essentially closed society for 44 years — every from 1945 to the fall of the Berlin Wall. It cy. was under one form or another of dictatorship for 56 years — from Hitler's rise to power in 1933 until 1989. Anger at disorienting, and generally disappointing, change has embittered minds that were long closed and essentially nationalistic.

Remember, the East German Com-

rejected for asylum last year. What can be a very long period of limbo began. Appeals are permitted, but they can take best Communists," said Barbara John, munists thought of themselves as the though he conceded there had been

■ Opposition Goes on Offensive

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder defended himself Wednesday against opposition charges of incompetence after his government backtracked on a second major project, the reform of Germany's 1913 citizenship law, The Associated

Press reported form Bonn.

During a debate in Parliament, opposition leaders accused the government of arrogance and a lack of direction on everything from taxes to foreign poli-

Only hours earlier, the government bowed to the opposition and dropped plans to offer dual nationality to foreign residents as a way to better integrate them into society.

Mr. Schroeder defended his record in

an unusually combative speech, al-

Kosovar Rebel Upset Western Strategy

By R. Jeffrey Smith

BELGRADE - After 18 days of negotiations, it was Hashim Thaci, a 29-year-old guerrilla leader at the helm of the ethnic Albanian negotiating team in Rambouillet, France, who surprised Western diplomats by refusing to give his unconditional approval to the accord to end the conflict with

Yugoslavia.
The result has been to ANALYSIS defer by at least three weeks a Western plan to gain the ethnic Albanians' approval and use it as a lever to pressure the Belgrade government and its Serbian counterpart into also saying yes — a strategy that would be backed up by the threat of NATO air

A senior U.S. official warned that as a result of the resistance shown by the ethnic Albanians, "the Serbs will be much, much tougher." He added: "It's goofy. We expected them to be the focal point of international pressure, not the ethnic Albanians."

The U.S. ambassador to Macedonia, Christopher Hill, the chief U.S. Kosovo mediator, noted that some of the 16member ethnic Albanian delegation had objected to the absence of a guaranteed referendum in three years to determine Kosovo's political status.

Such a vote would almost certainly be overwhelmingly in favor of independence for the province and its ethnic Albanian majority. But Mr. Hill said the principal sticking point was the rebels' ament by North Atlantic Treaty Organization peacekeepers.

Mr. Hill said that Mr. Thaci "kept getting calls from the field saying this was a bad deal - that by not accepting this, they could keep the war going and eventually NATO would be forced to intervene anyway."

"But I kept saying," Mr. Hill said,
you cannot have NATO without a political settlement.'

A senior U.S. official said the plan was to get the ethnic Albanians to accept a comprehensive agreement" in return for deployment of NATO troops in Kosovo. "Rambouillet was supposed

who spent the final three days at the negotiations, Mr. Demaci met Friday talks, but by scores of other top Western morning in Slovenia with Mr. Thaci and diplomats.

NATO's threats of an imminent air wasn't there in France who blew it up,' strike against a recalcitrant government one official said. in Belgrade, and many Yugoslav analysts saw it as at least a short-term tri- problem was larger. The Kosovo Libgotiating tactic.

settlement to Adem Demaci, the Kosovo to signing them up.' Liberation Army's political representative, who refused to attend the talks.

They did not get enough assurance that NATO "would not be directed rebel army against taking part in the ernment troops, the diplomat said.

encouraged him to take a hard-line tack, The outcome let the air out of U.S. officials said. "It was the man who

But others close to the talks said the umph for Mr. Milosevic's stand-pat negotiating tactic.

U.S. officials assigned part of the blame for the failure to achieve a final organization. This was the main obstacle

After first advising his colleagues in the against them" as well as against gov-

cluded that the rebel commanders' de-cision to participate in the talks over Mr. Demaci's objections meant that it was he

After hearing Mr. Demaci's arguments, various military commanders tele-

phoned Rambouillet, France, where the

talks were being held, to raise objections.

These calls had a particular impact on Hashim Thaci, the rebel commander who

who had been politically sidelined.

KOSOVO: Rebels Split on Peace Accord

Continued from Page 1

They were expected back Wednesday, but the Yugoslav government threatened to block their passage through the Pristina airport, as it did briefly when they left for France. U.S. and French officials were later able to obtain a promise from the government that its troops would not threaten the rebel commanders.

The chief opponent of the accord is led the ethnic Albanian delegation. Adem Demaci, a Kosovo Liberation Army political spokesman who initially opposed the negotiations and urged the

holding meetings in Kosovo with mil- cord. itary commanders to persuade them that any deal was a mistake, according to

Mr. Demaci complained that attaining Kosovo's independence was the only acceptable goal for any political set-tlement, and that the absence of a clear reference in the accord to a future referendum in which Kosovo citizens could vote for independence meant the path to

this goal was not ensured. troops could not be trusted to protect to be about putting the screws to Bel- was achieved, and insisted that provigrade. But it went off the rails because of sions requiring the rebels to disarm

Mr. Thaci attempted to pressure other delegates to oppose the deal, and raised objections up to the last few minutes of

commanders who took part to reject the talks, according to Western diplomats and ethnic Albanian sources. His While 37 members of the Liberation efforts came as a surprise to Western Army attended the talks, including five diplomats, because Mr. Thaci's comwariness about submitting to disarm- official delegates drawn from its top ments earlier in the talks had led them to political leadership, Mr. Demaci was conclude he was favorable to the ac-

Two other rebel leaders on the ethnic Albanian delegation suggested Wednes-day that they supported the deal. Rame Buja said of the consultation period that "this is the beginning of the successful end for solving the Kosovo issue."Another rebel leader, Jakup Krasniqi, told reporters in Rambouillet that "we did not come here with the illusion of in-

ote for independence meant the path to dependence."

is goal was not ensured.

'There's no question there is a split,"

He also emphasized that NATO said the chief U.S. envoy, Christopher Hill. But he said he expected the group to ethnic Albanians until independence try to paper over the dispute in coming weeks, and predicted they would conclude that the accord enjoyed wide pubthrough tainted-blood transfusions during surgery and blood-derived products that hemophiliacs use to control bleeding. They say at least 1,000 have died.

demic in the mid-1980s and history had the miscalculation we made about the Albanians."

demic in the mid-1980s and history had the miscalculation we made about the Albanians."

U.S. and other Western officials were deadly infections. They argued they did not realize the extent of the AIDS threat.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, against the treaty, because they had conble," he said.

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An Icy Showcase for McQueen's Shining Moment



McQueen's stainless steel lacy skirt in its icy setting.

By Suzy Menkes al Herald Tribune

ONDON - The scene was arctic and apocalyptic, a snowy tundra pierced with stack winter trees. But the figures walking across the glacial space or whirling in a "Swan Lake" ballet on ice exuded elegance and romance. With its mix of poetry, showmanship and imagination, Alexander McQueen's fall show electrified London Fashion Week - and confirmed him as a major international talent.

For once, in this city of whimsical British designers, everything came together: a spec-

LONDON FASHION

tacular presentation, an original interpretation and inventive clothes. Mixing Icelandic sportswear elements like puffy parkas, ponchos or chunky knits with more nostalgic cutaway frock coats and long skirts, McQueen's look was the essence of modern luxury, both in its fine fabrics and tiny details, from flowered braiding through fur trimmings.

set of snow (fake) and ice (real) surrounded by a Plexiglas cube that represented the haunted hotel of the movie.

"It was the sense of isolation and obscurity — and whether two people could survive in that hotel — it was the romantic side of the film," McQueen said backstage, after the show received an ovation and brought tears from his mother, Joyce, and from Nicole Fisch-

elis, fashion director of Saks Fifth Avenue. What makes fashion folk weep? It was the sense that the designer was giving the best of himself. McQueen has already established signature pieces, like sleek jumpsuits, frock coats, jigsaw puzzles of leather and his infamous,

loosened up and given a sporty spin, so that the cutaway coats came winter-weight, anklelength over pants; a simple leather top and long, wide skirt were printed with leaves, and the broderie anglaise of last season developed as perforated decoration on flannel.

That was part of a decorative, romantic feeling that was played out in the delicate color palette of dusky pinks, grays and greens like the chalky fronts of St. Petersburg mansions.

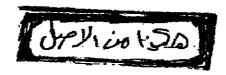
McQueen, still only 29, seems to have absorbed so much, so quickly from working in Paris conture at Givenchy — above all the ability to make complicated cutting or elaborate workmanship appear simple and streamlined. If black dresses with ballooning, twisted skirts were over-elaborate, most of the show made the complex seem casual, from a suede dress with fur peeping through the seams, through a hexagonally pieced leather coat or

embroidered roses buried in shearling.
For its lighthanded workmanship and intense imagination, this show was, for Mc-Queen, a shining moment

What of London's other young talents mostly from the same art college background? The inspiration was Stanley Kubrick's cult Paradoxically it was Dai Rees, a self-taught film of 1979, "The Shining," with the stage designer of feathered accessories, who made an intriguing debut collection. Although his dresses, tailored asymmetrically on flat planes, were in the spirit of Japanese design, they were cleverly executed in very British tweeds.

With sculptures in what looked like ratchewed blanket felt or crinkled silver thermal fabrics, Deborah Milner's collection was more art than clothing. A pantsuit with pagoda sleeves developed from this futuristic architecture, but conceptual fashion is a tough sell.

With all the usual graduation show tricks, including a metal-cage face mask and a oneeye glass that made his models look like an Otto Dix painting, Tristan Webber distracted from his talent. That is for inventive cutting: a low-slung "bumpster" pants that flashed out leather skirt with geometric markings, during the all-white finale in a blizzard of snow slung felted pants, leather dresses pit flakes. Those looks were moved forward, with metal and coats with cape sleeves. leather skirt with geometric markings, lowslung felted pants, leather dresses pierced



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ASIA/PACIFIC

Former Aide To Anwar Says **Accuser Was** Offered Money

The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR - The former deputy prime minister of Malaysia, An-war Ibrahim, completed his testimony in his own defense Wednesday by insisting that the charges against him were con-cocted to end his campaign against high-level corruption in the government and COTPOTATE Sector.

My contention has consistently been that the allegations were malicious and scurrilous and must be rejected," Mr. Anwar said from the witness stand.

Mr. Anwar, who was dismissed as deputy prime minister by his onetime mentor. Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad, and arrested in September, is on trial for four corruption counts. He still faces one more charge of corruption

and five of illegal sex acts.

On Wednesday, Mr. Anwar's former security officer, Zull Aznam Harun, testified that the prosecution's key witness had confided in him that he was offered money to accuse Mr. Anwar of sod-

omizing him repeatedly.
Mr. Zull said that Azizan Abu Bakar, Mr. Anwar's former driver, had told him that he had never been sodomized by Mr.

"He replied, 'I was promised mey,' "said Mr. Zull, an officer of the money. Special Branch of the Malaysian police, who served Mr. Anwar for a year.

Judge Augustine Paul of the High Court ruled Mr. Zull's remark irrelevant. Attorney General Mohtar Abdullah threatened to impeach Mr. Zull for mak-

ing false statements.

But Mr. Zull plowed on, testifying that shortly before Mr. Anwar's trial started in November, he was called to attend a meeting where prosecutors were talking with their witnesses.

Mr. Zull's remarks drew furious protests from the attorney general, who accused him of making "insimuations that are not relevant." The judge then ruled the rest of Mr. Zull's testimony hearsay and barred the press from reporting it.

Mr. Anwar has repeatedly tried to tell the court that he was a victim of a conspiracy by top government officials who he claimed used the police and the attorney general's office to destroy his

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The corruption charges are linked to Mr. Anwar's alleged use of his position as the second-most-powerful official in Malaysia to obtain retractions from two people who had accused him of adultery and sodomy.



Chee Soon Juan, right, who was sentenced to 12 days in prison, leaving the court Wednesday with his wife, Huang Chih Mei-

Singapore Court Bars Activist From Elections

SINGAPORE — A Singapore olitician was sentenced Wednesday to 12 days in prison and barred from speaking in public without a permit for charged with a similar offense earlier. a second time. "He acted in deliberate and willful

The politician, Chee Soon Juan, chose a prison sentence in lieu of paying a 2,500 Singapore-dollar the offender from running for election default. Mr. Wong opted to go to jail. for five years.

Mr. Chee said he did not apply for a

In his final argument, Mr. Chee, the leader of the Singapore Democratic Party, told the court: 'I am not on trial for a crime. I am in a political struggle. I have just spent a week in prison for standing up for my rights.

"Prison is one place I do not want to have to step into again," he said. "It is demoralizing and it brutalizes one's spirit. But if I have to spend time in jail to show that I believe that what I'm doing is good for my country, then consider it done."

Mr. Chee again was charged under the Public Entertainments Act for delivering a speech in public without

obtaining a license. He served a one-week sentence this

month for a similar offense

In handing down the ruling, the district judge, Mavis Chionh, said Mr. Chee was well aware his actions were running for Parliament for five years illegal after having been warned by a after a court found him guilty of police officer and having already been

disregard of the law," she said. Another SDP member, Wong Hong paying a 2,500 Singapore-dollar Toy, who was charged with assisting (\$1,450) fine. Under Singapore law, a fine of more than 2,000 dollars bars a 2,400 dollar fine, or 12 days in jail in

license to speak because he knew one would not be given to him. He said, "It is without any sense of decency and respectability for the prosecution to sit there and charge me for not applying for a permit when it knows full well that one will not be given."

Mr. Chee, whose party has no seats in Parliament, says democracy and free speech are stifled by the public speaking permit system he challenged.

The government says the permit law Slain During Robbery is a procedural matter necessary to maintain public order and does not substantively affect the right to free BEIJING — Zou Fingmeng, a Chinese weather official and former head of the speech. It also says there are ample outlets for people in Singapore to ex-World Meteorological Organization, has been killed in a robbery, the official Xin- arrested nearly 80 people in the city.

Seoul Offers a 'Deal' to the North

SEOUL - President Kim Dae Jung of South Korea on Wednesday proposed resolving all outstanding political, se-curity and economic issues with North Korea simultaneously in what he called a

'package deal.''
"It's time to end the Cold War that has persisted for half a century on the Korean Peninsula," the president said at a news conference on the eve of the first anniversary of his inauguration. "We must give the North what we can give, and simultaneously, the North must give

us what it can give.' North Korea would be asked to curb its development and deployment of missiles and end a suspected nuclear weapons program.

In exchange, Pyongyang would get food and economic aid, Washington would end trade sanctions, and along with Japan, would move to normalize ties with North Korea, Mr. Kim said.

"The package deal with North Korea consists of our side asking North Korea to cease producing weapons of mass destruction and become a responsible member of the international community," he said. "At the same time it

Foreign Opium Users

Pose Concern in Laos

VIENTIANE, Laos — The represen-

tative of the United Nations Drug Con-

trol Program, Halvor Kolshus, said he

was concerned about reports of increasing numbers of backpacking foreign

tourists visiting Laos to smoke opium.

Mr. Kolshus said at a news conference.

Tuesday that he thought the quantity sold to foreigners, mostly Westerners in their 20s and 30s, was not large, but he

was worried about the example being shown to Laotian youth. He urged the

Laotian authorities to prosecute foreign-

ers for buying or using illegal drugs.

Mr. Kolshus praised Laos's efforts to

eradicate its image as a haven for opium

users. Laos is one of the world's largest

producers of opium, part of the notorious

Chinese Weatherman

hua press agency reported Wednesday.

Golden Triangle.

with Japan and the United States."

Diplomats say a recent North Korean proposal to the South for governmentlevêl talks may be a sign that it is preparing to negotiate such a deal.

Since taking office a year ago, Mr.

Kim has pushed his new "sunshine

We must give the North what we can give, and the North must give us what it can give.'

policy" of cooperation and engagement with North Korea. He tried to allay U.S. congressional concern that his engagement policy will only embolden the hard-line North, citing the success of the U.S. policy of detente toward the former Soviet Union.

"I don't have a 100 percent guarantee that this policy will succeed," Mr. Kim said. "But this is certainly the best policy we can think of at the moment. We must give North Korea incentives to accept our cooperation."

BRIEFLY

Economic assistance for North Korea, addresses the issue of normalizing ties where an estimated 2 million people

ological Bureau from 1982 to 1996, was

slain Monday in Beijing, the report said.

If gave no details.

Mr. Zou, born in 1929, was president of the World Meteorological Organiza-

tion from 1987 to 1995 and was an al-

ternate member of the Communist Party

central committee from 1982 to 1992,

One Killed in 2d Day

Of Bangladesh Strike

DHAKA --- One man was killed and at

least 50 were injured in sporadic clashes Wednesday, the second day of an op-position-led nationwide strike in Ban-

Saifur Rahman, 25, died in a blast after rival activists tossed a Molotov cocktail

at an anti-strike march by government

supporters in northern Iswardi district,

Witnesses said the injuries occurred

when opposition and pro-government ac-

tivists fought with homemade bombs and guns in the capital, Dhaka, the port city of

Chittagong and the southeastern towns of

The authorities said the police had

local reporters said.

Cox's Bazar and Teknaf.

have died of malnutrition and related diseases over the past two years, would

be a key element of the package. "And that also involves the issue of lifting economic sanctions," he said. The sanctions, which ban American

trade and investment with the North, have been in place since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. The conflict ended in a truce that has left the two Koreas technically still at war.

Mr. Kim said South Korea would continue to cooperate with the United States on policies toward North Korea and that there would be no difference between the allies on North Korea policies.

He emphasized that growing security. cooperation between South Korea and the United States, and more recently. between Seoul and Tokyo, would un-

derpin the approach to the North.
U.S. President Bill Clinton's coordinator on North Korean policy, William; Perry, is putting together his own comprehensive package toward North Korea, Korean and U.S. officials have

Mr. Perry is to visit Seoul early next, month on a swing through Northeast Asia that could also take him to North. Korea, diplomats said. (Reuters, AP);

Manila Halts Mr. Zou, who held the minister-level **Peace Talks** post of director of the State Meteor-

The Associated Press

MANILA — President Joseph Estrada of the Philippines said Wednesda that the government is suspending peace

talks with the communist rebels.
"Enough is enough," Mr. Estrada said a week after the rebels abducted a general and another officer, "We will not tolerate this abuse of our goodwill, of our good faith and of our deep and abiding commitment to bring peace to our countryside and to our cities."

Mr. Estrada also suspended the immunity and security guarantees the gov-ernment gave to 85 senior rebel lead

Guerrillas of the New People's Army, the military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines, abducted Brigadier General Victor Obillo and Captain Eduardo Montealto on Feb. 17 near Dav-

Mr. Estrada said General Obillo and Captain Montealto had been involved indevelopment and community work.

The defense secretary, Orlando Mercado, called the suspension of talks a "temporary setback" that could be off. set by an early release of the two of-

ple in the city.

"We are all hoping to go back to the negotiating table," he said.

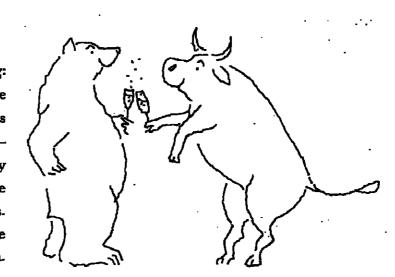
ERE IT IS - THE NEW NAME FOR TWO STRONG PARTNERS.

TOGETHER, WITH OUR COMMON STRENGTHS, WE'LL BE ABLE TO REACH

THE HIGHEST GOALS. WATCH OUT DAX, HERE COMES

Degussa-Hus

Specialty chemicals now have a new spelling: Degussa-Hüls AG. The company will have 46,000 employees and will start with sales of more than DM 20 billion. Degussa-Hüls an attractive new international company with high growth potential based on the combined strengths of two established firms. Degussa-Huls - the latest word for more expertise, more commitment, more innovation.



EDITORIALS/OPINION

A Kosovo Suspension

for Kosovo did not follow the advance script, and have now adjourned for three weeks in a state of great uncertainty. Whether the talks can be brought to a successful conclusion depends on whether the two sides are prepared to make compromises that they have resisted and whether they refrain from violence during this delicate interval.

Ethnic Albanian negotiators did their part on Tuesday to make peace possible by softening their unexpected demand that a political settlement in-clude a referendum on independence in Kosovo in three years. If the ethnic Albanian delegation returns to France in three weeks ready to sign the peace deal proposed by the United States. its European allies and Russia, Serbia will be isolated in its opposition to the plan. In that circumstance, NATO would be free to initiate air strikes against Serbian military targets to force Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, to accept the proposed deal. Serbia has balked at allowing NATO peacekeepers into Kosovo as part of an agreement.

But there is much chance for both sides to undermine the peace plan over the next three weeks. Having declared the need to return home to test public opinion — in reality, to try to persuade hard-line guerrilla leaders — the ethnic

The negotiations over a peace plan Albanians could shift course by the time the talks resume next month, and once again insist on a referendum. This would scuttle the chance for self-govemment and the NATO protection that Kosovo's Albanian population deserves and needs.

More ominously, the negotiating break is an invitation to more violence in Kosovo. If ethnic Albanian guerrillas score some victories, they may hope to persuade supporters that independence can be won without a peace deal. Mr. Milosevic may decide to escalate Serbian military attacks to try to defeat the guerrillas or anger the ethnic Albanians and drive them away from any agreement. If he can provoke the guerrillas to reject the plan, he will probably avoid NATO air strikes.

The West must do everything pos-sible to keep the parties on track to a workable accord. It must keep alive the bombing threat against Mr. Milosevic and not allow him to dictate conditions that will eventually undermine peace. If there is new violence or more attacks on members of the international verification mission now in Kosovo, NATO may have to use its airpower in the days ahead to prevent greater bloodshed.

The prospects for peace are not good. But they have not yet perished. THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Greenspan, have been overly pessi-

mistic about the American economy

for several years, and consumers seem

to have decided to believe their own

eyes rather than heed the warnings of

In retrospect, it appears that growth was enhanced by technological change

and aided by plunging commodity prices that reflected weakness abroad.

Economists also underestimated the

degree to which soaring stock prices

would encourage spending, and the Fed's lowering of interest rates late last year, as it feared a weakness that

did not materialize, only moved stock

constantly come out better than ex-

pected. But it is also slightly unnerving

to realize that the experts are so con-

fused. "We are, in a sense, learning

as we are doing," Mr. Greenspan said on Tuesday. "There is no Economics

101 which carries us through what's

going on today. We're probably writ-

It is certainly enjoyable to see things

fallible forecasters.

prices higher.

The American Economy

times. Europe is slowing, most of Asia is in recession and Brazil threatens to drag down much of South America, but in the United States consumers are spending with abandon and economists continue to be surprised by how robust the economy is. It was against that background that Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, testified before the Senate Banking Committee on Tuesday. He again predicted that the economy would slow this year, and again warned that stock prices appeared to be overvalued.

Wall Street may hang on every word from Mr. Greenspan, but most Americans seem quite unconcerned. They continue to buy stocks, pushing prices higher and allowing them to feel and act richer. As Mr. Greenspan noted, the net worth of households is up about 50 percent since 1994, and personal consumption expenditures rose more last year than at any time since the mid-1980s. The Conference Board reports that Americans think current conditions are better than at any time since the board began its consumer confi-

ing the textbooks, but we don't have them to read yet." THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Guilty Verdict in Jasper

John William King has never said William King was motivated by a why he decided to chain James Byrd Jr. white-hot racial antagonism that had to a pickup truck last June and drag him down a country road near Jasper, Texas. Neither has he explained the need to pull the apparently conscious and suffering Mr. Byrd for three miles (five kilometers) until his brutally battered body was shredded and beheaded by a concrete culvert. The prosecution, however, convinced the jury of 11 whites and one African-American that Mr. King's reason for committing that gruesome capital crime was that James Byrd was black. The Jasper jury's unanimous guilty verdict, returned after two hours of deliberation, was applauded by courtroom spectators. It will be widely saluted around the nation as well.

Two other men are scheduled to face trial in Mr. Byrd's murder, But John William King's conviction does not mark the end of his date with the jury. The panel that found him guilty must now decide in a separate proceeding whether he should be sentenced to life behind bars or face the death penalty. That he should never be allowed to return to the streets is not in question. His was a heinous crime. As long-standing opponents of capital punishment, we believe that Mr. King should be imprisoned for the rest of his life.

The prosecutor said Mr. Byrd's tormentors were like "three robed riders coming straight out of hell - instead of a rope, they used a chain, and instead of horses, they were using

a pickup truck." And to make a point of their broader disdain for society, they dropped off the beheaded torso in front of a church and cemetery, the

prosecutor charged. From evidence and testimony, John

him fantasizing about making a name for himself as leader of his own white supremacist organization. It was not enough for him to display his hatred of blacks by adorning his body with racist tattoos or through his membership in the Confederate Knights of America, a racist group he joined while in jail. Both of those actions, objectionable as they are, were within his rights. John William King had no right, however, to kidnap, maim and murder an innocent man. After the Jasper jury's swift and

must pay dearly. -THE WASHINGTON POST.

unambiguous judgment, Mr. King

Other Comment **Recalling Emmett Till**

The horror resonates with many readers of my generation. There is something about the ideology behind the murderous mutilation of James Byrd that reminds us of Emmett Till's

murder in Mississippi in 1955.

Authorities say "Bill" King has loads of racial hang-ups. He is tattooed with Nazi lightning bolt symbols and swastikas. The words "Aryan Pride" and a war shield symbolizing the Confederate Knights of America are emblazoned on his body. One account said he wears a tattoo of a black man lynched from a cross. His girlfriend says he doesn't like Jews.

Oh, yes, they say King also has a real "thing" about sexual relations between white women and black men. So did Emmett Till's murderers.

— Colbert I. King, commenting in The Washington Post.

Herald Cribune

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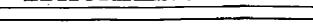
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The West at Cross-Purposes on Embattled Kosovo

PARIS — The Kosovar Albanians, like the Kurds, are inconvenient peoples of the Ottoman Empire, left powers remade the political geography of Europe and the Middle East after World War L They were left out when the national homes were distributed. The Allies preferred an integral Tur-

key to an unpredictable Kurdistan, which was equally unwelcome to Iraq. a British League of Nations mandate, and to Iran, a British protectorate in the 1920s. They still prefer Turkey today, as the West Europeans have demonstrated by their willful past indifference to the Kurdish problem. The United States has indicated its choice by helping Turkey capture the Kurdish in-surrectionist leader Abdullah Ocalan. Europeans and Americans also prefer a Serbian-linked Kosovo to an

independent ethnic Albanian Kosovo. A basic concern in the West's original draft of the agreement that was supposed to emerge from the now inter-rupted Rambouillet negotiation was to limit the consequences that Albanian Kosovo's antonomy could have on Albanian nationalism elsewhere.

The Kurds have come closer than the Kosovars to political frontiers and nationhood. They took their claim to be recognized as a nation to the Allied powers in 1919, who had rashly promised national self-determination to the peoples of the defeated Ottoman

and Hapsburg empires.
The Treaty of Sèvres in 1920, dismantling the Ottoman Empire, promised ic integrism, have been temporized

By William Pfaff

behind when it collapsed and the great an autonomous Kurdistan. Three years nowers remade the political geography later, the Treaty of Lansanne replaced the Treaty of Sevres and made no mention of Kurdistan. Kemal Ataturk had in the meantime revived and re-established a strong and secular Turkey.

The Kurds have since been used and exploited by all neighbors, and by the United States as well: on behalf of the shah's Iran in the 1970s, again when Washington wanted risings against Sad-dam Hussein after the Gulf War, and today as it tries to mobilize opposition to Saddam. All of this has been to no Kurdish advantage, since Washington, in the end, prefers a centralized Iraq to a fragmented one that could permit Iranian domination of the region.

The West prefers liberal solutions to illiberal ones in dealing with Middle Eastern and Balkan problems, but these are hard to find. In the Balkans, the Allies' program in the 1920s for universal national self-determination proved strictly unrealizable in territorial terms (the populations were too scattered), and it sowed more ethnic irredentism than it calmed. Interwar fascism exploited the result.

A liberal program is being applied by the international community in Bosnia. There is a chance of success be-cause Sarajevo, which dominates Bosnia, was a cosmopolitan center before the Bosnian war. But Croatian and Serbian nationalism, along with Islam-

with, rather than disarmed, in Bosnia.

The Contact Group's Rambouillet plan was fundamentally ethnic-nationalist, with liberal appendages, but it contained a fundamental contradiction, which is why it remains maccented. It which is why it remains unaccepted: It seemed to offer the Kosovar Albanians the nation they have been struggling for since the late 19th century, but it actually was meant to prevent it.

The first Albanian nationalist program was proclaimed in 1878, calling for a unified Albania, including Kosovo, of roughly the geographical di-mensions of that "Greater Albania" which some Kosovar Liberation Army militants demand today.

In the 20th century, Hungary and Italy sponsored the independent Albanian state that exists today because they expected it to become their protégé. The Albanians who lived in Kosovo and Macedonia were left out. Some of those Albanians supported

the Italians and Germans in World War II because the Axis powers promised support to Albanian nationalism. Others joined the Communist partisan movement, which renounced nationalism as a primitive sentiment that would disappear in the conditions of a multinational socialist state. Under Tito, Kosovar Albanians became part

of Yugoslavia's national leadership.

There is considerable irony in what happened after Tito's death. The 1974 constitution, decentralizing power in Yugoslavia, had the effect of re-establishing separatist ethnic interests throughout the country.

Kosovo acquired an independent university, and cultural links with Albania developed. At the same time, a reactionary nationalism was revived in Serbian intellectual circles, and found a fateful political expression in the nihilistic policies of Slobodan Milosevic.

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The oil shocks of the 1970s brought the IMF to Yugoslavia, demanding austerity in exchange for loans. This meant stronger central government, rather than the decentralizing reforms from which the Kosovo Albanians had been net beneficiaries.

Austerity, and Western market ideology that called on Yugoslavia to give up commodity exports for added-value manufactures, dealt further economic blows to Kosovo, the most backward of the Yugoslav regions. This fed Kosovar separatism and irredentism, and provoked increasingly aggressive Serbian nationalism.

That is the history that brought Kosovars and Serbs to Rambouillet this month. It is the reality to which they now return. The military part of the Rambonillet proposals, yet to be signed by either side, envisions 30,000 NATO troops in Kosovo. Their mission would be to deny to both Albanians and Serbs what each side believes to be its historical destiny.

Rambouillet proposes a liberal solution in compensation. But the people to whom the offer is made have heavily invested in the idea that their national interests lie in illiberal solutions.

Invernational Herald Tribune. Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Make Aid to Cambodia Conditional on Genuine Reform

DHNOM PENH --- Cam-P bodia now brings its begging bowl once again to the international community, in hope that donor nations at the

aid package.
After three decades of bombing, civil war, Khmer Rouge genocide, Vietnamese invasion, international embargoes and stripping of the country's resources by corrupt leaders, there is no doubt that Cambodia's needs are desperate.

But before Japan, the United States, the European Union, the World Bank and others choose the path of least resistance and approve this aid, they should ask themselves what has happened to the \$2 billion they have given in the past decade to the very same corrupt leaders.

The vast majority of Cambodians have little or no access to health care or decent education. Road and rail transport is

The forests have only five years left before being commercially logged out, and fishing catches are shrinking dramatically because of silting caused by logging. The famed temples of Angkor see only a trickle of tourists. Unemployment forces young people, mainly women, into exploitative labor conditions in a fledgling garment industry, or into prostitution.

ficials, corrupt military officers and even Khmer Rouge leaders Consultative Group meeting in Tokyo this Thursday and Friday will approve a \$1.3 billion reside in palatial mansions, ride in chauffeured limousines and enjoy impunity for the most reside in palatial mansions, ride atrocious crimes.

Rather than pour their taxpayers' money into the sinkhole for foreign aid that Cambodia has become, foreign donors should start to insist on political and economic reforms. The government has moun-

ted a major public relations campaign to convince donors that at last it is serious about reform. It promises to reduce the bloated military, end illegal logging and crack down on the drug trafficking. It promises to boost tourism and increase agricultural production.

These promises have all been made before. The moves that the government has made in the past two months to implement them are purely cosmetic and pitiful. Rice harvests are far be- easily reversible. If the past is be fulfilled — unless the donors condition their aid on real reforms that would make the government accountable to the legislative branch, the people and the international community.

To achieve accountability, the institutions created by the constitution to form a framework for a democratic govemment must be rebuilt so that they are independent, neutral and effective.

This process should begin

By Sam Rainsy

prosecution of the worst human rights violators. The second step must be to

reconstitute the election commission as a truly neutral body and establish a professional, nonpartisan civil service. Elections for local officials must be held so that government power and political party power are

With an independent judiciary and civil service, the enormous task of reducing corrup-tion can begin in earnest. Financial pressure on lower officials to engage in corruption can be reduced as funds are

shifted back to proper govern-ment control, allowing salaries in each sector to be raised as that sector is cleaned up. Civil servants will increasperformance of their duties,

rather than for participating in and protecting networks of corruption. These duties include all the normal functions of a civil society that are now largely neglected in Cambodia. Power to sign deals in secret

must be stripped from the govemment, as the constitution

Backed by the independent judiciary, the Ministry of Finance could insist on exposure of all government deals and

nullified or corrected. The international community

must stop pouring money unconditionally into Cambodia. ingly be responsible for the Unless the government proves performance of their duties, that it is undertaking the political reforms that introduce accountability and transparency, their billions will disappear into the pockets of the corrupt once again, and Cambodia will never throw away its begging bowl.

The writer is a former Cambodian finance minister. The Sam Rainsy Party, which he heads, is Cambodia's sole opposition party, with 15 seats in the National Assembly. He contributed this comment to the concessions. Illegal deals must International Herald Tribune.

Constructive Change Needs to Continue

By Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

ernment in Cambodia has reforms. prompted a new sense of political stability. Prime Minister Hun Sen's commitment to stabilize the economy, reduce poverty, fight corruption and take action on human rights violations linked to atrocities of the Khmer Rouge has encour-

aged many observers. Having taken this critical step, leaders face the challenge raised by expectations. They must demonstrate political resolve to

WASHINGTON — The reinforce macroeconomic stability and implement ambitious solow potential, and many people any guide, the promises will not November of a coalition gov- cial, economic and institutional

Investors and international donors meeting in Tokyo will be watching closely for further action that matches recent government promises. Their confidence and support are vital to the country's revival.

The Tokyo meeting is to discuss strategies to speed up Cambodia's economic recovery and development, as well as its government's request for up to \$450 million annually over the next three years to support these development efforts. Cambodia now has another

chance to throw off the legacy of more than 25 years of strife. It must build on its peace breakthrough by equipping its 11 million people to overcome the poverty that blights too many lives, and fully embrace the re-forms needed to promote sus-tainable economic growth.

It is "make or break" time. Cambodia can get back on its earlier growth path by wisely managing its rich resources of timber, rubber and impressive cultural heritage, many of which are underused or inadequately managed. It can also develop alternative sources of growth in manufacturing and services. But it will need to build up its institutions and regulatory framework.

Managing its forests more strategically is one of the main development challenges facing Herald Tribune.

the country. Others include the need to improve governance, reduce corruption, demobilize soldiers, fight poverty and protect the environment.

Illegal logging, which cost the government \$60 million in foregone revenue last year, has to be curbed quickly.

Cambodia also needs to ensure that tax reform legislation is enforced. Government spending should be reoriented to emphasize health, education and rural development, to help pull one-third of Cambodia's

people out of poverty. Schools, health clinics and village drinking water systems must be built. Agricultural extension services are needed, along with refurbished transport facilities, power generation and telecommunications.

If Cambodia is to win sustained support from donors, it must demonstrate commitment to collect tax revenues and focus their use on social and economic development.

Until recently, Cambodia's spending in the social sector has been less than one-fifth of its budgetary allocation for the military. The government has taken steps to cut the size of the armed forces, but deeper cuts will be required.

These are significant challenges, but there is much evidence of change.

The writer, country director in the Southeast Asia Unit at the World Bank, contributed this comment to the International

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: Poor Waltzing PARIS — Recent discussions of

the deterioration of dancing led me to obtain the opinions of au-thorities on the subject in the city that boasts of its excellence. I placed the matter before Eduard Strauss: "Are we Europeans losing the art of dancing?" And I received this answer: "The way the waltz is danced in Vienna now is unworthy of us. The cause lies in the loss of the true old German character, such as one saw in the days of the first Strauss. Vienna was then purely German. Vienna is no longer a German city but a conglomer-ation of the worst elements of other and inferior races."

1924: Fresh Food

DUSSELDORF — In order to ensure that his workmen have cucumbers and other fresh vegetables all the year round. Herr Hugo Stinnes has erected

immense forcing houses near his works. The installation covers twenty acres, entirely under glass and illuminated by electric lamps. All kinds of vegetables are cultivated. The greenhouse makes a special point of the cultivation of cucumbers, of which the workmen are especially fond.

1949: Klan Hecklers

COLUMBIA, S.C. - University of South Carolina students, peppered a Ku-Klux Klan meet: ing with steach bombs while Grand Dragon Samuel Green was making a speech. Dr. Green. who was introduced in the South Carolina legislature earlier, shouted: "If you let President Truman ram this civil rights bill down your throats, it will be legal for a Negro to come up on your porch and ask for your daughter's hand in marriage." "She can always say no," chorused Dr. Green's hecklers.

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By Jim Hoagland

The Middle East Is Not as It Seems

WASHINGTON — A dying monarch blindsided the self-described "indispensable" U.S. government and the CIA station that once funded his activities by keeping them in the dark on the single most significant de-

cision he could make.

King Hussein flew home from the Mayo Clinic in January assuring his subjects that he had been cured of cancer. In fact, he believed that he had about a year to live and get his affairs in order, according to information given to U.S. officials either by the king, U.S. intelligence or both.

King Hussein may have planned to use that time to alter Jordan's constitution, which restricted him to naming either his brother, Hassan, or his eldest son, Abdullah, as his successor. There were indications that he wanted to include his 18-year-old son coloration. Hamza in the line of succession as well.

But he immediately fell ill on his return to Amman. Knowing that time was running out and upset with Prince least one military commander in his absence, he abruptly dumped his brother as crown prince and named the untested Abdullah, 37, his heir. I noted in a recent column

(IHT, Feb. 1) the long history of U.S. covert involvement in Jordan's affairs and suggested that an immediate rush by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to Amman to bless publicly the king's move had been ill-advised. Her trip could only bolster the impression in Jordan of U.S. interference in Jordanian affairs.

Hussein gave neither Washington nor the CIA station in Amman any inkling that he was about to dump Prince Hassan, I am told by U.S. of-ficials and Middle East sources. This was for him a family matter that he kept

from the spooks.
The Amman CIA station was reporting right up to the change that Prince Hassan would be the next king. U.S. officials were weighing in with advice to King Hussein that they thought he wanted to hear: Hassan was the best available successor, the Clinton administration would

work well with him. In that light, Mrs. Albright's rush to Amman takes on an urgent intelligencegathering and fence-mending

I started digging deeper into who knew what and when after receiving anguished telephone calls from U.S. officials about the political ramificaning out and upset with Prince tions of the perception prob-Hassan for quarreling with at lem I had identified. They had no self-interest in acknowledging how little they and their bosses had known about this key political event in the Middle East. They did so to make the point about the lack of U.S. involvement

In Syria, appearances also deceive. President Hafez Assad seemed to use a surprise appearance at Hussein's funeral to show that Syria still has cards to play in new peace moves or any new conflict with Israel. Weeks earlier, an officially tolerated demonstration that led to the storm-The reality is stranger. King ing of the U.S. Embassy in

Damascus had raised questions about Mr. Assad's intentions and assertiveness.

Both events in fact stemmed from Mr. Assad's growing weakness. He was muscled into going to Amman at the last minute by Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, who told him that the Arab world would not forgive his absence. A foreign leader who was in Amman says Mr. Assad showed zero interest in talking about diplomacy or conflict with Israel and was simply eager to go home.

Survival occupies the ailing Assad. The December demonstration, ostensibly over U.S. bombing in Iraq, spun out of the control of his normally draconian security forces, according to Western intelligence reporting from Damascus. This reporting discounts any idea that the government intended the riot at the embassy as a show of force or determination

The brittle state of Syria's army was also underlined for experts in October when Mr. Assad took two steps in response to warnings from Tur-key to expel a Kurdish guerrilla leader or face military action. Mr. Assad expelled the Kurd and pulled Syrian troops back from the Turkish border to protect his decaying military establishment from possible clashes.

Who is more stable: the untested Abdullah parachuted onto the throne in Amman, or the seasoned, anthoritarian Assad who has ruled in Damascus for a quarter-century? You can forget the odds and appearances in the Middle East, where the sure thing is usually a mirage.

The Washington Post.

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Corruption Is Finally Getting the Attention It Needs

WASHINGTON — In between fund-raising calls this week, Vice President Al Gore is hosting the Global Forum on Fighting Corruption.

Mr. Gore as conference chairman is seeking to donesia and others made it clear that corruption is not a bolster the campaign against what in just the past few years has come to be seen as one of the world's greatest scourges, especially in the developing and post-Communist world. Mr. Gore as candidate is serving as an unspoken reminder that, when it comes to money and influence, the United States itself still has some de-

Not so long ago, corruption was even defended by some economists as a useful lubricant. Transparency International is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting corruption and promoting accountable government. When the organization was formed in 1993, Said its U.S. managing director, Nancy Zucker Boswell, "we couldn't even get people to talk about the issue."

Now Transparency International has indigenous branches in more than 60 countries. Governments in the Americas, Europe and Asia have promised to

Public-sector corruption is widely recognized as the key impediment to development.

criminalize bribery that until recently many of them not only allowed but encouraged, by making bribes tax-

What accounts for this "fundamental sea change," as Stuart Eizenstar, the U.S. undersecretary of state for economic, business and agricultural affairs, calls it? In part, he says, bribery "simply was becoming so costly" for multinational corporations that they began pressuring governments to reform themselves.

The financial collapse of corrupt but previously fastgrowing countries such as Indonesia shredded any credibility of corruption defenders in the academic world.

The end of the Cold War erased a strategic rationale for investment, can produce a "race to the top" through investment, can produce a "race to the top" through backing corrupt Third World dictators. Scandals in Italy, Japan and Belgium -not to mention Washington and Salt Lake City — proved that corruption is not exclusively a Third World problem and helped motivate

grass-roots campaigns for clean government. Most of all, the travails of Russia, Ukraine, In-

minor issue, nor even one of many important problems, but rather absolutely key.

It diverts resources from education to Swiss bank accounts, undermines public faith in democracy, makes saps of those who obey the law. Officials and executives from developing and post-Communist countries, surveyed by the economist Daniel Kaufmann of the Harvard Institute of International Development, cited public-sector corruption as the single greatest impediment to development.

"You cannot make the transition if you have cor-

ruption," former Prime Minister Mart Laar of Estonia said during a visit to Washington this month. "You

Estonia, perhaps the republic to emerge most successfully from the Soviet Union, understood early on that what can cause corruption is not free-market reform, as many Russians and Russia-watchers now be-lieve, but incomplete or phony reform. Legalizing private wealth without curbing the arbitrary powers of the state — that is what would cause trouble. Estonia privatized with clear, open rules, inviting foreigners and Estonians alike to bid; it disclosed the assets and incomes of public officials; it opted for strong regulation, but in as few areas of economic activity as necessary.

Given its location between Russia and the West. Estonia was in danger of becoming a transshipment point for organized crime. Instead of combating this by hugely beefing up its customs service, Mr. Laar said, Estonia drastically reduced tariffs and duties, so there would be little profit in smuggling.

Every county has to find its own way. But it is

encouraging that wealthy nations have acknowledged that they have a part to play. This month, a treaty went into effect committing 33 industrialized nations to criminalize overseas bribery by their corporations. Mr. voluntary cooperation on ethical rules of behavior. Still, if so, it has been a slow race, as Mr. Eizenstat

well knows. As domestic policy adviser to President Jimmy Carter, he promoted the 1977 Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which bars U.S. companies from paying bribes overseas. It took 22 years to level the playing

field with the treaty that came into effect on Feb. 15. And even now, only 12 of 33 signatories have

The Gore conference, from Wednesday through Friday, is intended in part to nudge the process forward. U.S. officials also want to expand the treaty to include payments to political parties as well as government officials.

That goal may draw the attention of conference guests back to U.S. practice. It is not just raising campaign funds from Buddhist nuns and monks or giving White House tours to Chinese arms merchants. It is the everyday demands of running for office: the \$35 million Mr. Gore hopes to raise this year for his presidential bid, the \$3,000 per bour that Frank Lautenberg - the senator from New Jersey who has decided not to seek a fourth term in 2000 - said he would have had to raise to stage a credible re-election bid.

If corruption means only abusing public position for private gain, no one would accuse Mr. Gore. But if the term encompasses selling access to the highest bidders, then it is virtually impossible to succeed within the U.S. system and stay clean.

Ms. Boswell says campaign finance issues vex Transparency International chapters in many conntries, and so she sees a silver lining in the U.S. conundrum. "It puts us all on the same side of the table," she says. "It would be bad for the United States to come across as all-knowing, as if we had solved everything." That, it seems safe to say, is one problem we won't have to soon confront.

The Washington Post



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Separatism and Force

When Kosovars demand not autonomy but total independence and Serbia right to bomb Washington? says "no," NATO (led by Washington) VICTOR GR insists on sending in 30,000 troops or else bombing the Serbs. When Kurds ask not independence but only autonomy, Light Therapy in Japan offering a cease-fire if free elections are held, and are answered by wholesale killing and destruction of villages far worse than anything in Kosovo, why do I hear no calls for a NATO force to move

in, no threats of bombs on the Turks? If Kosovo becomes a model, with the expect NATO bombs on Tel Aviv be-consumption.

acted up, would China or Cuba have the VICTOR GROSSMAN.

Regarding the report "Japanese See the Light" (Feb. 23): The proposal by a government-ap-

pointed panel to lift our economy by introducing daylight time seems to be based on the unrealistic expectation that United Nations pushed aside, can we more light will lead to more personal

system that has changed little since the Tokugawa feudal era. Individual wellbeen psychologically manipulated through the education system and corporate induction rituals to suppress their feelings in order not to destroy the "managed harmony" of groups. Selfsacrifice for the organization has been elevated to the detriment of personal and

Our system would be recognized from the outside as nothing less than brainwashing. However, to the majority of the cause of West Bank Palestinians, on It is high time to realize that the population it is so insidious as to be

> CONT. I SUNTER TO MAJOR DO. fore. The musics sale

New Delhi because of Kashmir? If severely deteriorating Japanese econo-Hawaiians, Puerto Ricans or the Apache my is a natural consequence of a sick cluding daylight time, are unlikely to produce any substantial effects. The West should keep in mind that patients being takes a back seat to the growth and suffering from delusions of grandeur prosperity of organizations. People have usually require years of psychotherapy. HIROMICHI OTA.

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An Old Screenwriter Recalls When Betrayals Were Grand

By Maureen Dowd

most famous canaries of the Starr war, but Elia Kazan was the most famous canary of the Cold War. High in the Hollywood Hills, Bernard Gordon, a writer who was blacklisted, is working to make sure that on Oscar night Mr. Kazan does not escape his past. Mr. Gordon, now 79, is naming

names. The name he gives the dazzling director — who will be awarded an honorary Oscar by the Motion Picture Academy — is Rat Fink. Mr. Gordon formed the Com-

MEANWHILE

mittee Against Silence and will picket the Chandler Pavilion on Oscar night, March 21, wearing a tuxedo that he had made for himself in Spain, where he had a successful career in movies after his exile from Hollywood. He wants the audience to fight silence with silence, and refuse to acknowledge Mr. Kazan's award. "It would be too much to boo or walk out." he said. "I got the idea of not applauding when I watched President Clinton's State of the Union and the Republicans sat on their hands."

Mr. Gordon does not want to debate whether artists who commit egregious acts in their personal lives can still be considered great artists. He knows they can. "But they are giving Kazan a lifetime achievement award," he says, "and the major achievement of his lifetime was to contribute to one of the worst civil liberties violations in the country.

Mr. Gordon says he does not particularly like Bill Clinton, who also gets lavished with high job-approval ratings despite egregious personal acts. But he thinks the Republicans a police state. He has attracted more media attention than Hollywood outrage. Privately, some Hollywood liberals muse that Mr. Kazan's award is an appropriate bookend to the lifetime achievement Oscar that Charlie Chaplin was given in 1972 --- an award that was vigorously protested by Hollywood conservatives.

It is telling that the co-chair of the key, a 45-year-old lawyer and activist with no connection to blacklisting or Hollywood. "All the people who were blacklisted died off or are incredibly old," she says. "I'm dealing

OS ANGELES -- Linda Tripp and with all these 88-year-old people who Christopher Hitchens may be the I have to yell at on the phone to make them hear me. It's poignant that they want to get their message out."

The political prism has shifted in

the time since Elia Kazan testified. The idealism that once enveloped the Old Left began dissipating decades ago. History has a way of getting at the truth, and it has brought out the terrible stench of Stalinism. These days, it is hard to find serious people who will argue the innocence of Alger Hiss or the Rosenbergs. Many find Mr. Kazan offensive now not for his dim view of Communists but for the

scuzzy way he expressed it.

The Clinton impeachment fiasco also began and ended in betrayal. It started with Linda Tripp's treacherous taping and culminated with Mr.

Linda Tripp is no Whittaker Chambers, and Sidney Blumenthal is no Alger Hiss.

Hitchins's tartling on the Clinton aide Sidney Blumenthal. But these im-peachment betrayals lack the grandeur of the Kazan betrayal.

Linda Tripp is no Whittaker Chambers, and Sidney Blumenthal is no Alger Hiss. And the turpitude represented by Mr. Clinton is not exactly worldhistoric. It's nice to live in secure times, when one doesn't have to awake in the morning to questions of life and death. Still, it isn't easy to be satisfied with the smallness of our experience.

We have developed a bad case of magnitude envy. In a culture obsessed with entertainment, celebrity, buzz, spin, market share, synergy, gestures, and Kenneth Starr have engaged in sexual McCarthyism and flinted with feel diminished and puny. We have developed a craving for real nobility, large principles, passions with scale and profound commitments. On Broadway, audiences are still

stirring to the 50-year-old "Death of a Salesman," drawn to its outsize emotions. In movies, Omaha Beach and grand Elizabethan epics rule. On television, the '60s miniseries became a nostalgia ratings bonanza by recalling Committee for Silence is Leone Han-struggles over civil rights and the Vietnam War, fights that seem a lot more compelling than an impeachment imbroglio that turned on who touched

The New York Times.

BOOKS

NOVEMBER 1916: The Red Wheel/Knot II

By Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Translated by H.T. Willens. 1,014 pages. \$35. Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Reviewed by Richard Bernstein TT used to be said, in an effort to put

I matters into perspective, that the Soviet dictator Leonid Brezhnev would one day be dimly remembered as a Russian politician during the era of Alexander Solzhenitsyn. In fact, matters turned out to be more complicated. Brezhnev is a bad memory, but Solzhenitsyn, the great dissenting author of "Cancer Ward" and "The Gulag Archipelago," whom Brezhnev pushed into an exile that lasted 20 years, is hardly a universally celebrated figure either.

It is as if Solzhenitsyn has outlived the centrality he had when moral criticism was an act of enormous courage, and he has not helped his cause by his recourse to dyspeptic commentaries on the in-adequacy of secular, liberal culture.

Now, however, the publication of "November 1916," the second volume of Solzhenitsyn's three-book cycle, "The Red Wheel," could help rehabilitate a tarnished hero. "November 6 1916," which follows the publication of "August 1914," the first in the "Red Wheel" series, by almost a decade, is an impressive accomplishment, and H.T. ment the civil war that will eradicate the Willetts has ably translated it from Russian. True, it has a fusty quality about it, power than the czar ever dreamed of. its specific ingredients more or less what one familiar with the sprawling historical genre would expect. Certainly it is overlong and contains too much talk and not enough action.

Moreover, as in "August 1914." Solzhenitsyn intersperses his story with long, dense historical explanations that not only require a good deal of specialized knowledge to assimilate but account, tried to drum up support among also slow the novel's dramatic mo-

1916" is a long way from the cranky. formers, and eventually with other milsemi-mystical ideologue that he has itary leaders, including Gruchkov, but

used to describe both books: ambitious, panoramic yet intimate, prodigiously speak to each other in nonexperiential researched, invested with a strong sense generalities.

country being bled white by war and

various members of the Russian elite: academics, doctors, forward-looking ofthrown even as the elite remains in power. On the other is Lenin, shown living in exile in Zurich, Switzerland, waiting for his chance and using his varive clarity is matched only by the waiting for his chance and using his implacable and trenchant logic to fo-

spent the war at the front and has come to believe that Russia will destroy itself if the war continues. Vorotyntsev goes to St. Petersburg to meet with Alexander Guchkov, a leading military officer (and

BRIDGE

Vorotyntsev has long conversations The Solzhenitsyn of "November with the Kadets, Russia's liberal re- toward a tragedy that they could avoid if

sometimes seemed to be. The work is an he finds nobody who shares his view that enormous literary palace teeming with the only salvation for Russia is to get out life and intellectual passion, a grand of the war. Many opinious are eloedifice of history and character in the quently expressed as Vorotyntsev makes Tolstoy tradition. Indeed, "November his rounds, but most eloquent of all is his is not "War and Peace," but own description of the slaughter taking some of the same adjectives could be place at the front, a slaughter that goes on while Kadets and senior generals alike

of verisimilitude.

A kind of political fable frames

Solzhenitsyn's broad-shouldered tale.

The central action reveals the inability of a self-absorbed wishful liberalism to moreover, believe him and his dire prerespond effectively to the condition of a dictions for the future of Russia because Solzhenitsyn has already taken us to the facing the dread menace of a revolution front in his opening chapters. We have that will utterly destroy the old order. seen for ourselves, as it were, how a "November 1916" in this sense deseen for ourselves, as it were, how a picts two opposing points of view, two of the German enemy have made the modes of action. On the one side are legendary courage of the Russian soldier legendary courage of the Russian soldier

almost obsolete. "Whose task is it to prevent the conficers in the czar's army. This portion of flagration from engulfing Russia?" Russian society strives to find some formula by which the corrupt and incompetent ancien régime (incarnated by the meddlesome czarina and her mystical spiritual guide, Rasputin) can be overspiritual guide, Rasputin and another officer. "Who has to be on the alert, to forestall the elemental forces, who if not ourselves, the leaders of Russian society, the strong and acceptance of the strong and another officer."

revolutionary clarity of Lenin, whose genius was to perceive what the liberal intelligentsia did not: that the way to topple the old order was to push workers Probably the most important of and soldiers into rebellion, not to fight Solzhenitsyn's many characters is Georgi the war more effectively but to stop Vorotyntsev, an army colonel who has fighting the war altogether. "What the proletàriat needs is civil war," Lenin tells his followers.

Of course, in contrast with Solzhenitsyn's characters, we know what happened a year later, when Lenin did historical figure) who, in Solzhenitsyn's come to power, and in the decades after that. And our knowledge lends Solzhenitsyn's story a piquancy that can only come from watching people marching

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CHATEAU HAUT-BRION

By Alan Truscott

HERE are many ways to Learn to play bridge and and three megabytes of hard expand one's skills, most of disk space, you can use which have been around for a century. You can, in a pince, yeloped by Michael get instruction from your Lawrence with software by lead, South might attempt to \$\circ{0}{142}\$ spouse or simply sit down and Fred Gitelman. Volume 2, make use of his club suit. That A J play. Better is to read a book with more than 100 deals, is will fail because the clubs do by an established authority, find a professional teacher or watch experts in action. But there is a higher level still.

More than 60 years ago, a symbol of the professional teacher or watch experts in action. But there is a higher level still.

Road, Berkeley, California a dummy reversal. South

More than 60 years ago, a 94705.

gadget called Autobridge, On the diagramed deal must ruff a heart at every opsiliar available, made it possible to bid and play prepared lands in two spades, a three ruffs in his hand, three the property of the property deals by pushing metal sliders four-three fit. Notice that trump tricks eventually in the to reveal bids and cards. The those who refuse to raise with dummy and the two red aces. West led the heart queen.

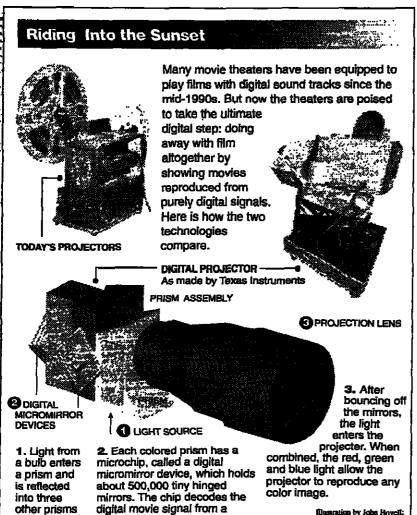
modern version, vastly more three cards in such positions sophisticated, requires a com- get the worst of it here. A puter. If you have an IBM rebid of one no-trump would compatible with Windows end the bidding and North

454 EAST **\$864** ♥K973 Ф К 6 ♣K1083 SOUTH **♠ K Q 9 3** a dummy reversal. South Both sides were vulnerable. The East South

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CribTech

Coming Soon to a Theater Near You: Digital Movies



OS ANGELES - Nearly every facet of the movie industry has been transformed in recent years by new technologies, from computerto the collection and analysis of box-

By James Sterngold

New York Times Service

But even with all the digital wizardry, notion picture reels are still made through a chemical film process and then projected onto screens using technology that has changed in the past century about as much as buttered popcorn.

Now, the industry is on the threshold of what many experts say is a breakthrough that could bring dramatic change to the economics of movie theaters and to the movie-going experience.

Assuming that financial hurdles and industry politics can be overcome, the industry politics can be overcome, the potential benefits include silver-screen images free of limt and scratches, new types of in-theater special effects and the ability of theater owners across the country to have the same access to first-run hits as urban cinemas.

expected to begin installing the first gen-projectors," said one studio executive, eration of digital projectors. Reels of 35 millimeter film — which are several feet in diameter and heavy — would be replaced with electronic projectors that use willing to say anything. What no one doubts is magnetic tape or digital disks.

On March 10, at a meeting of the National Association of Theater Owners, two new electronic projectors - one by Texas Instruments Inc. that relies on a called a light valve produced by Hughes-JVC - will demonstrate what they can do. The same four-minute film clip will be shown on each of the new projectors, as well as a traditional 35mm projector.

If several demonstrations here re-ently are a guide, the exhibitors will Then there is the issue of quality and cently are a guide, the exhibitors will observe a quality that is sharp, with consistency. In the process of making colors as rich and as warm as the most prints from a master, the copies lose pristine film prints and without the usual some vitality, in the form of a softer jittery frames, scratchy soundtracks and focus and less vibrant colors. Films beblotches of dust that often mar much- gin to show serious wear after 30 or so ized dinosaurs and other special effects used thearer prints. The thearer owners screenings, experts say. are expected to witness, in short, the birth of "electronic cinema."

"The technology now exists to build the projectors," said Doug Darrow, manager for market and business development of the electronic projector business of Texas Instruments. "The real issues are economics and emotion."

Phil Singleton, president of American Multi-Cinemas Inc., a chain with 236 theaters, added: "We can't wait for the day when we're unshackled from the 35mm prints. But conversion is first and foremost the biggest problem to face." Theater owners insist that the outlays

booth, will have to be shared. its as urban cinemas.

"There's going to have to be some
Within two years, movie theaters are studio subsidy of the installation of these

who asked not to be identified. "Until we

costs about \$2,000, and a major film nally in the ball park on the quality." requires as many as 5,000 prints. Those

some vitality, in the form of a softer

Electronic cinema would do away with many of those problems. Movies would still be shot, and edited, on traditional 35-mm film, and the endproduct would be at least initially on film. Then, using a machine called a telecine, the digitized print would be made, and every subsequent digital copy would be a perfect replica. There would be no wear and tear from each showing.

The image that people would see in the theaters would still be cast by a projector upon a screen. But instead of the projector producing the image by shining a bright light through a strip of film, the new, digital projector would be generating the image from data stored as computer code—the way an audio compact disk player or the new home digital video disk, or DVD, players translate digital data into sounds and images.

I went into one demonstration where the only way I could tell the difference know exactly how that will work, I'm not between the film and the electronic version was that the film one had that jittery What no one doubts is the benefits the movement and the electronic one new systems will create. For one, the didn't," said Martin Cohen, head of poststudios will no longer have to process and production at DreamWorks SKG. "They ship thousands of reels of film. Each print are down to the nitty-gritty. They're fi-

But there are also questions. It is eschip with more than a million tiny mirrors. costs would all but vanish under the new timated that studios lose perhaps a total and a competing technology using what is systems, in which entire movies could be of \$3 billion a year or more to illegal sent to theaters through a satellite signal.

"As it stands, most of the savings would go to the studios and the costs would go to the studios and the costs would go to the theater owners," said William Kartozian, the president of the National Asperfect copy.

ALT /Review

New Engines Can Improve Web Searches

By Margot Williams

TASHINGTON - Internet search engines are getting bigger, but they do not seem to be getting smarter. I am often frustrated by a lengthy "hit list" loaded with irrelevant or

nonexistent pages.
Sometimes while eyeballing the umpteenth irrelevant link, I wonder who decided this one was useful. Usually it was a machine. And when I find a really great link on the 10th page of a hit list, I wonder who placed it so low on the list. Again, usually it was a machine.

Now come some innovative engines that use something that is often better than artificial intelligence: They analyze Web traffic patterns and use them to determine the relevance that a page's content has to a searcher's query.

Google (www.google.com) is a new search engine that takes advantage of the cyberspace community's collective expertise. Just as you trust the links on a really good site to get you to other good pages, Google crawls the Web scooping up hyperlinks and using them to decide how important a page is by who is pointing to it.

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Sergey Brin, president of Google, says that users get higher quality and more relevant results with this page-ranking method. Google also considers your search terms' proximity on the page, whether they appear in headlines or text and other factors to determine relevance.

When you enter a word or phrase into the search box on Google's nofrills home page, you retrieve a list of results and instructions on how to interpret them. The site is still in a test mode and the results display is overtechnical and somewhat confusing. But the results are fast and on target. The top result is so often just right that Google offers an "I'm feeling lucky" button taking you directly to the site of the first hit.

When I tried to search Altavista, www.digital.altavista.com, one of the biggest and oldest search engines, for "Salt Lake City Olympics," none of the first 10 results was relevant, but in Google, 8 of 10 hit the spot. No. 1 was the organizing committee's home page.

Another search engine that draws on traffic patterns is Direct Hit (www directhit.com), which determines relevancy and ranking vious searchers have selected from search result lists and how much time they spent looking at the selected pages. It then pulls a list of the "top 10" ranked relevant sites and delivers them to you.

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Other Web ventures that rate sites by vote, like WiseWire and Firefly, are limited by subjective responses and a relatively low number of responses. But Direct Hit taps a volúminous database of searchers' clicking behaviors.

In HotBot, the top 10 sites retrieved in my search for "Van Gogh" included seven links to shopping sites (including the Van Gogh mousepad and the Van Gogh two-story, five-bedroom home model). The Direct Hit "Top 10 Most Visited Sites" link took me to six topical pages about Vincent Van Gogh, including the Van Gogh Information Gallery and the Netherlands tourist bureau.

Is it a search engine or a popularity contest? I don't know, but it seems to work. Maybe search engines are getting smarter after all.

Margot Williams is a researcher for The Washington Post and can be at williams@wash-

Choreographers and the Computer: It's a Pas de Deux

By Jennifer Dunning New York Times Service

computerized playback device

and rotates each mirror, up to

1,000 times a second.

other prisms

— one blue.

one red and

TEW YORK - Dance has been handed down for centuries from one body to another. But little by little it has been moving into the electronic era. Technology has been used in dance for several decades to record and reproduce existing choreography, but the means and results have exponentially grown more sophisticated in

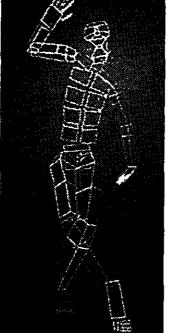
Technology has also been used increasingly to ornament or enhance the look and content of dances on a stage and even to affect how they unfold. And now technology is being used as a creative tool for choreographers. Today's computer technology can make important contributions to the inherently visual art of dance, and dance contributes to the evolution of the technology, as it did with film.

At one end of the technological spectrum are software programs that drastically cut the time necessary to set up and study dance notation scores and can create comprehensive archival Web sites, known work. A heady development at the other end of the spectrum is "virtual dance," generated by and for the computer.

In "Ghostratching," a recent virtual dance in-stallation at Cooper Union created by Paul Kaiser and Shelley Eshkar of the Riverbed new-media studio in Manhattan, elegantly drawn figures moved through space that seemed eerily three-dimensional in an abstraction of a dance by Bill T. Jones.

Another example is Ralph Lemon's "Mirrors and Smoke," created at Arizona State University's Institute for Studies in the Arts in Tempe, a CD-ROM in which the viewer walks through the many chambers of a dance for electronic space by Mr.

The implications are considerable, both philosophically and for the day-to-day life of dance. Could stages and studios soon be a thing of the past, as some expect? Is virtual dance the future of dance? Those questions are sure to be discussed in Mr. Kaiser is just as emphatic. "Nothing can replace seeing a human being performing on stage," dance? Those questions are sure to be discussed in



photographs by Mark Graham Instrument digital projector)





"Ghostcatching" took the movements of a dancer and abstracted them for drawn figures.

ference at Arizona State University this week. he said. "That's an incredible form of art. But there Information about the conference is available on its are other art forms that can derive from that, and Web site: isa.fa.asu.edu/IDAT99.

Richard Loveless, director of the institute at Using computer technology to compose dance Arizona State, describes the form as an "extension of live performing. 'This is not a simulation of what is live," he

said. "Dance becomes something else. This is not about how you displace the live performance but Capable of astonishing physical feats, the figures how you extend its boundaries to other spaces where other populations exist to experience that."

that's what we're interested in exploring.'

goes back about a decade. Merce Cunningham began testing the boundaries of human movement and theatrical space in 1991 using animated figures in a computer composition program called Life Forms. gave Mr. Cunningham new choreographic ideas.

In "Ghostcatching" and some other virtual dances, figures "capture motion," in Mr. Kaiser's words, edging toward the look of animated cartoons.

Working with Mr. Kaiser and Ms. Eshkar, Mr. Cunningham has also choreographed a multimedia piece to be performed by his company this year. Alwin Nikolais's experimentations with stage light and shape beginning in the mid-1960s led to dances that abstracted the human body and the ways it moved. Trisha Brown used comparatively

advanced technology to explore interactive per-formance in her 1989 "Astral Convertible," a piece, designed by Robert Rauschenberg, in which dancers activated electronic sensors that in turn activated the lighting and music. Today, however, Robb Lovell and John Mitchell

have upped the ante considerably with Intelligent Stage. Developed at Arizona State, the program allows performers to produce sound, lighting and video imagery in new, once unimaginable ways through onstage movement-sensing systems and computer-controlled stage media.

Another active area is the dance department at Ohio State University in Columbus, where A. William Smith has created programs like "Interactive Multimedia Dance," a CD-ROM that can help a ave money by creaming droi of virtual sets and scores in virtual space.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Mitchell were among the representatives of more than 20 institutions that participated in "Decade of Dance Preservation Symposium," a seminal conference held last year at the Joyce Solio Theater. Sponsored by Preserve Inc., a service organization for performing arts documentation and preservation, the conference offered a dizzying overview of practical and fantastic new programs and the uses to which they are being put in dance.

The field has very little control of the new technology. Most dance companies and independent choreographers still do not have access to or cannot afford the latest equipment for good electronic documentation of their work, an increasingly serious handicap in an electronic age. And though once unimaginable ways are opening up to create once unimaginable kinds of dance, these tools are being used almost entirely by technologists rather than by experienced choreographers.

BRIEFLY

REBIRTH OF A WEB SITE: An ordered the creators of the site to pay and well as free-speech advocates. "We and other advocates of abortion rights is back on-line, while another copy of the free speech advocate.

The Nuremberg Files site contains,

among other things, names, home addresses and license plate numbers of many abortion doctors and their family Doctors on the list who have been

ago, a federal jury in Portland, Oregon, received offers from abortion opponents

anti-abortion Web site that was removed about \$107 million in damages to did get a lot of people offering to help," from the Internet shortly after a federal Planned Parenthood and doctors who he said, noting that he was "overjoyed" court ruled it a threat to abortion doctors argued that the material constituted a that the site is again on-line. threat on their lives.

Jonathan O'Toole, who assists with pages, said Monday that a new host for the site had been found and that it was United States, but would not identify the

Mr. O'Toole said the Nuremberg site killed are indicated by a line drawn operators encountered little difficulty through their names. About three weeks

that the site is again on-line.

Mr. O'Toole said he was unaware of the Dutch site, which was set up by a to fame when he worked out his own interview that although she favors a million copies. woman's right to abortion and detests placed back on-line Saturday. Mr. the site, she was nonetheless moved to O Toole said the host was based in the post it because she believes it merits free speech protection.

NO SQUATTERS ALLOWED: The American-based Internet search firm Yahoo! Inc. will seek unspecified damages from "cybersquatters" in India in a patent case, lawyers for the company said.

An Indian court granted an injunction Friday to the Santa Clara, California-based Yahoo!, which has brought a civil suit against "Yahooindia," whose World Wide Web site resembles the familiar Yahoo! home page and offers India-related services and information.
Yahooindia is run by New Delhi-

based Netlink Internet Solutions. This week, its Internet page read only: "Under Construction. Please Come Back Later." The company's lawyer, Harish Malhotra, said he would appeal the injunction keeping Yahooindia from operating or seeking advertising pending a final ruling. "Yahoo is a common word in trade circles," Mr. Malhotra said. "No one

can own the name." Yahoo! attorneys said the ruling was a rarity in a case related to the Internet, which is rife with the practice of cyber-

squatting, or copying of domain names.

He said the ruling also rebutted the notion that Indian courts offer little redress to domestic and foreign companies in cases of patent law violations. (AP)

TEST FOR THE Y2K BUG: A man who solved the riddle of Rubik's cube. has invented a test kit to detect where the

Now 30, he and a team of software experts at London-based WSP Business Technology have developed Delta-T Probe, a program that can work out whether microchips embedded in electronic equipment are likely to fail on Jan. 1, 2000, because inadequate programming will cause them to mistake 2000 for the year 1900. (Reuters)

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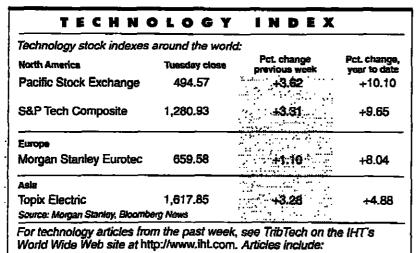
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original site was posted Monday at a separate address by a Netherlands-based cluded the original Nuremberg Files spaink. Mr. Spaink said in a telephone wrote a best-seller about it that sold 1.5



Shortcut, Feb. 18

- An On-Line Outpouring Helps a Family Endure, Feb. 18 Cell-Phone Users Get a Spelling

 Free-for-All in Britain, Where Web Surfers Needn't Pay, Feb. 18
• An Olivetti Bid for Telecom Italia. Feb. 20-21

Crisis at E-Trade: A Cautionary Tale,

Feb. 24

* BSky8 and Canal Flus Generate a Buzz, To reach TribTech editors or to comment on IHT tech coverage, send e-mail to tribtech@int.com.

ACROSS 1 Chest display 6 ---- and Span

"We are seeking punitive damages," said Pravin Anand, a Yahoo! counsel. "Let this case be a deterrent for cyber-

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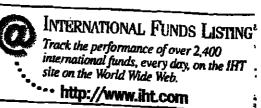
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© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz



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Herald Tribune

BUSINESS/FINANCE

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PAGE 11

share trading has finally caught up with Wall Street.

The New York Stock Exchange achandwedged this week that it must extend its trading hours to appease foreign investors and moonlight amateurs who are being targeted by competitors de-veloping new forums to buy and sell stocks after the exchange's closing bell at 4 P.M. in New York.

The exchange tentatively plans to open "a few hours earlier" beginning in June 2000 to trade non-U.S. stocks. Ultimately, trading could be extended to all stocks, and the hours could range from 5 A.M. to midnight, Richard Grasso, the chairman of the exchange, said Tues-

geographic borders, the world can no as individual investors make their own longer trade U.S. stocks only on U.S. deals with one another around the to keep orders flowing.

"The growth in global investing clock."

But the Big Board is moving in this the stores are closed," Mr. Andresen clock." he said

The exchange is seeking to expand its contingent of non-U.S. corporations, which now account for 15 percent of its listings. But to attract European traders and compete with exchanges in London and Tokyo, in particular, it must open before 9:30 A.M. Eastern time.

The shift to extended hours would hold broad implications for Wall

It would force on-line securities firms to revamp back-office operations, because they now process orders by day and settle them at night. And it will challenge the entire system of Big Board market makers, known as specialists, who match buyers and sellers on the Mr. Grasso acknowledged that as floor of the exchange, raising fundabusinesses increasingly become blind to mental questions about their future role

more foreign business but also because it is under growing pressure to accom-modate individual U.S. investors, who increasingly research stocks after work and place orders. The only forum now for after-hours investing comes from Instinet Corp., a subsidiary of Reuters Holdings PLC, which is limited to in-

stitutions making large trades.

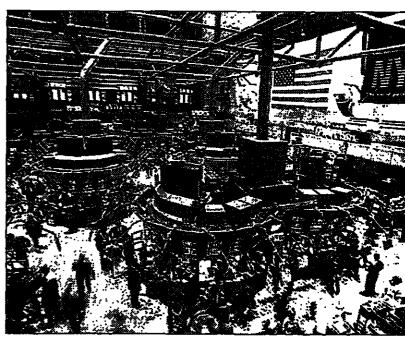
A new wave of competitors is seeking to extend this ability to individual investors. Among the biggest is Island ECN Inc., a subsidiary of the trading firm Datek Online Holdings Corp., which is already open from 8 A.M. to 5:15 P.M., handling almost 100 million trades a day from retail brokers sponsoring individuals. Island's president, Matthew Andresen, said it soon could match buyers and sellers around the

"There's a huge demand Wit Capital Corp., a New York se-curities firm, also plans soon to open a 24-hour stock exchange that would compete with the Big Board and the Nasdaq Stock Market for listings. "The reality is that three years from now, the New York Stock Exchange won't look anything like it does today," said Andrew Klein, Wit Capital's founder and chief strategist.

Bill Burnham, a technology analyst at CS First Boston Group, estimates that 15 percent to 20 percent of all orders are placed at night, often creating a chaotic opening for both NYSE and Nasdaq

This proves that there's a big demand for after-hours trading," he said. 'You're going to get night trading soon,

See NYSE, Page 12



The floor of the New York Stock Exchange during a day of heavy trading.

Y2K Bug Is Deemed **World Crisis**

Countries Are at Risk, A Senate Report Warns

By Stephen Barr Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON - A report on the year 2000 computer problem prepared by a special Senate panel warns that a num-ber of countries and U.S. economic sectors, especially the health-care industry, appear at significant risk of technological failures and business disruptions.

The report, scheduled for release this week by Senator Robert Bennett, Republican of Utah, and Senator Christopher Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, includes a letter to Senate colleagues describing the problem of computers ability to recognize dates starting Jan. 1, 2000, popularly known as Y2K, as a worldwide crisis" and "one of the most serious and potentially devastating events

this nation has ever encountered. The report is the most comprehensive assessment of the Y2K problem to appear as companies and governments scramble to fix their computer systems.

The report concludes that the biggest Y2K impact "will occur internationally." In particular, Japan and Venezuela seem to have miscalculated the time and money needed to fix the computer glitch. according to the draft report.

Relying on surveys by consultants, the report suggests that Japan "may have underestimated the resources needed to address the problem," noting that major Japanese banks have indicated far lower repair costs than U.S.

Venezuela and Saudi Arabia lag from a year to 18 months behind the United States in Y2K preparations, raising concerns about the availability of oil and other critical imports, the report said.

International aviation and foreign airports also appear at risk, and "flight rationing to some areas and countries is possible," it said.

In assessing U.S. preparedness, the draft report reserved some of its strongest language for the health-care industry, concluding it "is one of the worst-prepared for Y2K and carries a significant potential for harm."

IA CIA official warned separately Wednesday that the Y2K problem could cause breakdowns in nuclear reactors and strategic missile systems, midwinter power outages and disruptions in world trade and oil shipments, The Associated

Press reported. [General John Gordon of the air force, deputy director of the CIA, emphasized before the Senate Armed Services Committee that gaps in information made it difficult to assess the scope of the damage in other countries but added that midwinter power outages could have 'major humanitarian consequences'' in

countries such as Russia and Ukraine. General Gordon said, "We currently do not see a danger of unauthorized or inadvertent launch of ballistic missiles from any country due to Y2K problems." But he said there could be serious local problems with missiles if temperature or humidity monitors break down and that problems in early-warning systems could lead to incorrect informa-

Inside, but Not in, the Euro Zone Switzerland is surrounded by countries that are part of the 11-nation euro currency zog nation, it has no plans to join the group, but many Swiss companies and banks will us to help maintain their extensive business ties with the rest of Europe 1998 Swiss Trade PERCENTAGE OF SWISS IMPORTS \$147 billion TOTAL TRADE WITH EACH COUNTRY EXPORTS \$150 billion NETHERLANDS RELAND PORTUGAL Source: Swiss Customs Administration

Euro's Attractions Not Lost on Swiss

Banks Lead the Way to Accommodation of Neighbors' New Currency

By John Tagliabue

ZURICH - The chief executive of a leading machinery company says that in five years his company will adopt the enro. A city council debates whether its citizens should be allowed to pay taxes in euros. Local banks open a clearinghouse in Frankfurt for transfers and settlements in euros. France? Germany? Another country that has adopted

Europe's new single currency? have embraced the euro even if it wanted to, because it is not

a member of the European Union. The arrival of the euro is adding fuel to the debate about whether the Swiss, recently immersed in a pained discussion of their financial role as a neutral nation during the Nazi conquest of much of Europe, should forfeit their

cherished separateness as Europe unifies all around them. The country is not expected to give up the venerable Swiss franc in the short or medium term, if ever. The people are divided, their political parties even more so, and a land of glacial public debate - where issues are subjected again and again to referendums - can hardly expect an early or seem clear. Switzerland, with just over 7 million people, is easy decision. Bankers are less concerned about which

markets or the financial crisis in Brazil. But none of this has kept the Swiss, especially companies with extensive outside ties, from approaching the euro with an

affection that eclipses that of some of their larger neighbors. "For us, the euro has become a reality, a new and convenient currency," said Fritz Fahrni, chief executive of Sulzer AG, a \$4 billion-a-year industrial group whose products range from weaving machines to medical devices such as pacemakers. Within five years, Mr. Fahrni said, the euro could supplant the Swiss franc as the official currency at Sulzer, which does more than half of its business elsewhere in Europe.

The euro, even in the 11 participating nations, remains a No. Switzerland, which could not join the 11 nations that bookkeeping and securities-trading phenomenon until 2002, when euro bills and coins will come into circulation. In this country, acceptance of the euro started for the most part with the banks, which risked losing international business if they were not prepared.

Some of the banks we do business with, especially in France and Germany, were not very well prepared," said Klaus Wellershoff, chief economist for Switzerland at the Warburg Dillon Read unit of the Swiss bank UBS AG.

The Swiss franc, the pillar of this small country's financial might, may be too crucial a strut of Swiss prosperity to be jettisoned soon. Still, the reasons for euro enthusiasm surrounded by four euro nations - Germany, France, Italy currency to choose than about the bubble in world stock and Austria — and conducts about 70 percent of its trade with the 15 nations of the European Union; so it is quickly

See EURO, Page 12

view," VW said.

sales growth.

profit in 1999 seems hard to

South Korean Union Vows 'All-Out Battle' Over Jobs

By Don Kirk

SEOUL - The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions on Wednesday pledged an "all-out battle against the government," pulling out of a commission set up a year ago to address growing unemployment.

Dae Jung suggested that more pain was on the way this year for the South

Korean labor force. The response by the confederation, which has 600,000 members, mainly in heavy industries deemed essential to the recovery of the national economy, dramatized the difficulties of placating increasing numbers of workers dismissed from their jobs as companies downsize

or go out of business. The union president, Lee Kab Yong, announcing his union's withdrawal from the commission set up by Mr. Kim after his inauguration as president a year ago, charged that the government was "for-

cing only workers to make sacrifices. At the same time, he said, the government was building up more than \$55 billion in foreign-exchange reserves and

forecasting 2 percent economic growth The withdrawal of the confederation He said construction was among the from the commission was seen as a hardest-hit industries. Only 400,000 severe setback for Mr. Kim's efforts at construction workers held permanent

uniting Koreans behind his economicrecovery campaign. The commission in- from site to site, doing well in good times cludes representatives from business and government as well as labor. A less militant union, the Federation of Korean Trade Unions, which has more than 1 million members, remains on the commission. But a spokesman

said it might also pull out. The federation has been more cooperative toward the government than the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, which dominates the labor movement in construction, motor vehicles and shipbuilding. Spokesmen for both organizations said they planned a "spring labor of-feasive," with thousands of workers

walking out while the government encourages major companies to merge in the interests of efficiency and profitability. A warning strike against auto-makers was called for Friday.

rea's biggest problem, suggested that recession curbed demand.

more unemployment was inevitable in the coming months.

'If we cannot restructure and carry out reforms," he said at a news conference called to mark the first anniversary of his presidency, "then the country will collapse.

Mr. Kim said the government had to minimize the pain of unemployment The move came after President Kim and "must spread our safety ner so the Korean people will survive."

Analysts, however, said unemploy-

ment insurance and public-works projects still were inadequate to protect a growing army of unemployed, officially listed as more than 1.6 million people, or 7.7 percent of the work force. Unemployment insurance lasts for about six months; public-works programs now employ about 300,000 people.
"We don't have an adequate safety

net," said Park Nei Hei, an economics professor at Sogang University and adviser to Boston Consulting Co. here. 'Many of those people who are out of work are permanently unemployed.

At the headquarters of a union of construction workers, the union's vice president, You Ki Soo, said recent reports showing improvement in the economy only masked the pain that workers still felt.

jobs, he said, while 1.6 million moved and suffering without any kind of unemployment insurance when times were

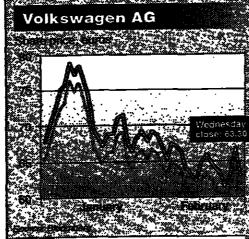
At a job center supported by the union, the outlook was bleak.

"Since last December, 400 people have applied for jobs," said Lee Kong Suk, president of the center. "We have 350 people still waiting. The sale of apartment buildings and houses is so low, nobody wants to build them any more.

■ Import Slump Widens Surplus

South Korea posted a record trade surplus of \$39 billion in 1998, but the dramatic rise was due mainly to a sharp decline in imports rather than a rebound in exports, Agence France-Presse reported. Exports fell 2.8 percent year-on-year, to \$132.3 billion, while imports plunged Mr. Kim, calling unemployment Ko- 35.5 percent, to \$93.3 billion, as the

Analysts Dispute VW's Pessimistic '99 Outlook world car market, a further huge improvements in earnimprovement of the group



CURRENCY RATES

Other Dollar Values

FRANKFURT -- Volkswagen AG shares fell sharply Wednesday after the company said it might have to struggle to exceed its 1998 earnings because of weaker car sales, but the stock rebounded after analysts said the company might have been too pessimistic.

The shares were off as much as 12 percent in early trading but recovered later in the day to close at 63 euros (\$69.10), down 3.40, or 5.1

VW issued its warning late 65 percent increase in its camings for 1998.

may not have reduced costs Tuesday when it reported a as much as expected, analysts "Due to the crisis-ridden

"It's a very worrying signal," said Albrecht Denninghof, an auto industry analyst with Bankgesellschaft Berlin AG. "As VW's new models room to take market share said. away from them."

But other analysts said VW was being too cautious and that its results would not be as bad as predicted, which helped the recovery in VW shares in the afternoon. "The profit warning took

everyone by surprise, and it

years, been very cautious in

ings," he added.

VW said Tuesday after the achieve from today's point of close of the market that its 1998 group net profit climbed to 1.15 billion euros

The warning surprised inas sales increased 18.5 per-cent to 68.62 billion euros. vestors, who had expected the popularity of VW's new models such as the New After the sharp drop in VW stock early Wednesday, a Beetle and Audi TT Coupe to offset slowing worldwide VW spokesman clarified that the company's 1999 outlook The cost of developing the could be overtaken by a positive course of events during new models may have out-

paced forecasts, while the ag-"Maybe they are a little bit gressive use of the platform pessimistic because they strategy — using the same chassis in several models don't want their workers to demand high wages now, which is a problem right now in Germany," said Peter Sep-pelfricke, an analyst at MM Warburg in Hamburg.

"They should not be so pessimistic, because the market situation is not bad right age, its competitors may have now for Volkswagen," he

VW employs about 47,000 workers at its Wolfsburg headquarters and a total of about 140,000 throughout Germany. VW wage negotiations are scheduled to begin next month.

Germany's largest industrial union. IG Metall, this month recommended that a 3.2 percent pay rise plus a 1 percent bonus agreed to in a 14-month deal for the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg be adopted for 3.4 million workers in the sector nationwide.

The wage agreement has been met with scathing criticism by employers. (Reuters, Bloomberg)

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a: To buy ann pound; b: To buy one dollar. "Per 100; N.Q.: not quoted; N.A.; not available. DR: Special drawing rights of the UNF. Sources; Bord; of Tokyo-Milayblehi (Tokyo); Rayti Prance (ouro); IMF (SDR). Other data fina Realers.

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doesn't fit with our general view of the market," said 2.5472 34.798 5.6237 5.9837 1.7841 0.71631,764.27 2.07163 182.84 151.78 2.0869 91.8872 2.6365 9.6745 2.8548 1.14962.496.23 2.7166 297.63 292.86 9.67 3.2983 22.38 20.28 68.03 168.93 4.87 60.37 04.6 0.7996 Lothar Lubinetzki, an analyst at Enskilda Securities in London. "In our view, it's way too cautious, and they should be able to broaden profit margins in 1999." "They have, in previous

committing themselves to

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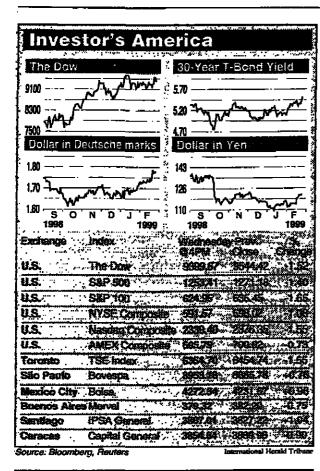
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THE AMERICAS



Very briefly:

• Boeing Co., the world's biggest aircraft builder, might sell or shut some of its weakest product lines after an internal review found it was not earning money from at least \$1.3 billion of its investments, about 10 percent of its total.

• Diageo PLC, the world's largest liquor company, agreed to sell the Christian Brothers brandy and wines business to Heaven Hill Distilleries Inc. and other brands to David Sherman Corp. and Sazerac Co. for \$171 million to focus on Smirnoff vodka and other global labels.

 Old Kent Financial Corp., the second biggest Michigan-based bank, is to buy a smaller competitor, CFSB Bancorp, for \$242 million in stock, increasing its banking and mortgage

 Cablevision Systems Corp., the New York cable-television operator, reported a fourth-quarter loss of \$142.9 million, slightly more than expected, after the payment of preferred dividends, although cash flow on a pro-forma basis rose 4.5 percent on higher subscriber revenue.

GM Plans to Cut 1,100

ST. CATHARINES, Ontario — General Motors Corp. said Wednesday that it would cut 1,100 workers at two Ontario parts plants that had lost work to GM factories with improved

The cuts, most to come through early retirements, represent about 4 percent of GM's Canadian work force and a quarter of the workers at the two plants in St. Catharines. GM started notifying workers Monday. The plants produce engines, transmissions, brakes and other metal parts.

Some of the plants' work has been shifted to other factories where GM has invested in newer technology, a spokesman said. Those include a newly converted \$400 million engine plant at St. Catharines that makes V-8 engines.

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Wednesda	Wednesday, Feb. 2					
Indexes	Most Actives	High Low Lotest Chge				
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Aero Systems 15%, 3-10 3-31 MACC Private 30% 3-15 3-31 MACC Private 0 0.98 3-1 3-10 Cohu Inc 0 0.99 3-12 4-23 Trizec Hotha Corp 5 1.75 3-3 3-17	G1 Central Mines b .057 3-23 4-19 Hach Co .0 .03 3-5 4-1 Hach Co A .0 .04 4-14 4-30 Imperiol OII A g .0 .185 3-8 4-1 Leblaw Co g .0 .05 3-15 4-1 Phoenix CA A .053 2-27 2-72	HOGS-Later (CAMER) 44,000 Res Cents per Ri. April 99 44,00 44,20 42,20 -1,83 1 Jun 99 54,00 54,00 55,17 -1,10 Jul 99 54,00 54,00 55,00 -1,20 Aug 99 57,47 54,25 54,00 -1,20 Cd 99 54,00 54,00 55,57 -0,42				
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INA inv Secs Q 28 3-5 3-10 INITIAL	TransPro Inc. Q .05 3-11 4-8 United Television A .50 -12 4-13	PORK BELLIES (CMER) 40,000 lbs cants per lb. Mar 99 51.40 50.00 50.85 -1.55				
Assoc Materials	Workington EIT, G .28 3-16 3-30 Workins-John O .12 3-11 3-5 4-1 Weston-Goog O .10 3-15 4-1 Zweig GwFd B. M .035 2-23 2-24 Zweig GwFd C M .038 2-22 2-24 Zweig GwFd C M .038 2-22 2-24	May 99 53.40 52.10 52.85 -1.65 Jul 99 54.10 52.90 53.72 -1.98 Est. salas 2.076 Turts sales 1,812 Turts open int 5,244 aff 34				
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U.S. Stock Tables Explained Sales figures are unofficial Yourly highs and current week, but not the latest trading day. W percent or more has been paid, the years high-	lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the here a spirt or stock dividend amounting to 25	COCDA (NCSE) 10 markite Nune- 5 per ton Mar 99 1201 1292 1295 -16 Mary 99 1305 1292 1295 -10 Mary 90 1305 1296 -11 Jul 99 1305 1266 1256 -13 Jul 99 1305 1266 1268 -10 Dec 99 1305 1365 1395 -10 Mary 90 1305 1305 1305 -10 Mary 90 1305 1305 1305 -10 Sec 99 1305 1305 1305 -10 Sec 99 1305 1305 1305 -10 Sec 99 1305 1305 1305 1305 1305				

whether you like it or not."

Wednesday, Feb. 24

Hileh Low Latest Chga Opini

"It's all sort of scary," said Betsy Roselli, a trader at Black & Co. in Portsaid, about 50,000 shares would have to is in the morning. Now am I going to trade every night. "In a few years, it is have to come to work? Are people going likely that we could reach that mass," he to start staffing around the clock? No,

Several major specialists firms are in a quandary. For several weeks, members brokers already grumble about getting to of the Big Board have been neceting with

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

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279 21,880 2,791 27,592 1,558 7,813 1,409 4,609 1,048

BRITISH POUND (CMER)

GERMAN MARK (CMER)

JAPANESE YEN (CMER)

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6100 pcf

610

3-MONTH SWISS PRANC (LIPPE) SF 1 million - pis of 100 pc

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552.5 532.5

PLATINUM (NMER)

nts of 100 pcf N.A. 113.87 —0.03 45,129

-0.01 444,496 -0.01 4,359 -0.01 1,617 -0.04 458,173 -0.05 75 -0.06 443,360 -0.06 277,535 -0.08 174,335 -0.08 174,335 -0.08 138,372 -0.07 118,353

Dollar Rises Speed Lane on the Cyber-Highway to Be Tested way," said Douglas Van Houwel- Internet by creating a members-only services at Qwest, which is based in

By Mark Leibovich Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON - A pioneering research and education computer network called the Abilene Project went on-line in the United States on Wednesday in a test of what is reagainst the yen Wednesday on ex- garded as the successor to today's pectations that Japan will remain Internet.

Abilene, an ultrahigh-speed system with vastly superior video and audio capabilities, initially will connect 37 U.S. universities and allow researchers and scientists seamless access to one another's wisdom through a network built almost entirely with equipment donated by private companies. A test late Wednesday was to transmit by video a gall bladder operation in Ohio nationwide.

"This will enable the nation's fastest track of the information high-

velopment, which is overseeing the are accustomed to. project. Mr. Van Houweling, a former chief information officer at railhead that was built in the 1800s the University of Michigan, said that in Abilene, Kansas, and proved Abilene represented a return to the pivotal in coast-to-coast transporpure research roots of the Internet.

a government-funded project connecting laboratories and federal fa-mercial products: Cisco Systems cilities. But as the medium became Inc. and Nortel Networks are procommercialized this decade, it be-viding several million dollars in came increasingly congested, leaving many new users frustrated with its slow speed, particularly when delivering audio and video infor-In 1996, a consortium of public-

and private-sector scientists undertook a project called Internet2. It was hatched as a way for research learning institutions to get on the institutions to circumvent the congestion and speed bumps of today's Guy Cook, vice president of Internet network on a campus.

ing, president of the University Cor"fast lane" — at least several hunporation for Advanced Internet De- dred times as fast as Internet users

Abilene takes its name from a tation. The computer network takes The Internet began in the 1960s as no direct federal subsidies and was computer networking equipment; Qwest Communications International Inc. is providing 10,000 miles (16,000 kilometers) of its leadingedge fiber-optic network. Indiana University will run the network's day-to-day operation from a center in Indianapolis.

"This will chain together the best

project by donating an estimated \$500 million worth of commercial fiber-optic network capacity - far and away the biggest contribution

among the network's supporters. According to the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development, more than 60 universities and research organizations will be connected to Abilene by the

end of 1999. Institutions that wish to join the network must undergo a rigorous application process to prove they are viable research entities.

If approved, an institution would pay \$100,000, plus \$25,000 a year in maintenance and overhead costs.

But that is just a fraction of the overall outlay, since it would cost: close to \$1 million to install the networking minds we have," said infrastructure needed to support the

Weakness in Bond Market Undermines Stocks

NEW YORK - Stock prices fell Wednesday in a late sell-off as bond prices tumbled after a Treasury auction of two-year notes met with tep-id demand. American Express and other financial companies - which

do best when bond prices rise, driv-ing down yields — led the drop. "The big issue is the increase in long-term bond yields," said Robert Streed, a money manager with Northern Trust. "I'm surprised more Wall Street strategists haven't advocated putting more assets into

its low point of 2.07 to the dollar but bonds from stocks. Stocks relative slightly weaker than its level of 2.00 to bonds are looking expensive." At the close, the Dow Jones in-

points at 9,399.67, the Standard & and stimulates demand for loans. Poor's 500 index was down 17.77 at 1,253.41, and the Nasdaq composite index was down 36.97 at 2,339.38.

U.S. STOCKS

Declining issues outnumbered advancing ones by a ratio of about 4 firm in Greenwich, Connecticut. to-3 on the New York Stock Ex-

American Express fell 3 15/16 to 107 11/16, Bank America lost 2 13/16 111/4 to 23 13/16 after it warned that to 641/s, and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter fell 61/s to 891/4.

Financial companies tend to do best when bond yields decline because that increases the value of the (Bloomberg, AFP) dustrial average was down 144.75 fixed-income securities they hold part from concern that the Federal

Major indexes swung between gains and losses throughout the day. late last year. Much of the volatility came from The concer nine computer-guided buy programs and six sell programs, said Dail del Savio, a spokeswoman for Birinyi Associates Inc., a research

Among the leading decliners was American Greetings, the No. 2 U.S. greeting-cards maker, which fell profit in its current year would be ess than expected as a push to re-

duce inventory cut into sales. The slack demand for the new two-year Treasury note stemmed in

Reserve Board might raise interest rates after cutting them three times

The concern about higher rates was generated by comments from Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Fed, who said in congressional testimony Tuesday and Wednesday that the U.S. economy continued to roll along. Though, as usual, he did not tip his hand about rates, some traders took his remarks as a warning.

The two-year note auction drew a yield of 5.01 percent, higher than the 4.99 percent expected by analysts. The benchmark 30-year bond traded down 14/32 points at 96 7/32, lifting the yield to 5.51 percent from 5.42. percent Tuesday.

NYSE: Borderless Trading Compels Big Board to Extend Hours

Continued from Page 11

Against Yen

On Economy

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

mired in recession while the U.S.

from comments made Tuesday by

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the

Federal Reserve Board. Mr. Green-

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

span said the U.S. economy was

expanding at a "surprisingly ro-

bust" pace with scant inflation, rais-

ing speculation that interest rates

may rise.
"Our outlook over the long haul

is one of dollar strength, given that

we don't see the U.S. economy slowing down at all," said Jay

Wong at Payden & Rygel in Los

Angeles. In 4 P.M. trading, the dollar rose to 121.67 yen from 120.92 yen late Tuesday in New York.

It also gained slightly against the

euro, which was trading at \$1.1000

compared with \$1.1007 on Tuesday,

but it fell to 1.4462 Swiss francs from 1.4484 francs. The pound slid

Brazil intervened in currency mar-

kets to prop up the real, the first such

move since the currency was freed

to float against the dollar last

after the intervention, stronger than

The real was at 2.04 to the dollar

Meanwhile, the Central Bank of

to \$1.5965 from \$1.6150.

to the dollar Tuesday.

The dollar continued to benefit

economy steams ahead.

NEW YORK — The dollar rose

Mr. Burnham warned, however, that the transformation could be risky. Afterhours trading, as Instinet has already found, is more volatile because there are fewer people buying and selling stocks. Someone may venture out to sell a stock and search all night for a buyer.

In order to have a viable market, he said, about 50,000 shares would have to said. "Then we will have a lively but thank you." delicate market for several years to come." On the West Coast, some

the office in time for the markets to open Mr. Grasso to push him to embrace Coast, who complained that they already arrived at work by 4:30 A.M. to begin researching stocks.

land, Oregon. "Now, I close positions and go home knowing what my situation

at 6:30 A.M. Pacific time. In fact, a plan technology, criticizing the pace at which to extend hours several years ago was the exchange has taken action. On the stymied by NYSE members on the West other hand, they don't want to turn their lives upside down.

■ Schwab Suffers On-Line Crash

The main Web site for Charles Schwab Corp.'s on-line investing customers crashed shortly after the market opened Wednesday and out of service more than an hour, Bloomberg News reported from San Francisco.

The outage struck as the company's president and co-chief executive, David Pottruck, was finishing a speech at a New York conference on information technology for the securities industry.

High Low Latest Chan Opini

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Apr 99 12.74 12.26 12.61 +0.13 129,442
May 99 12.84 12.39 12.72 +0.14 64.532
Jen 99 12.90 12.50 12.83 +0.13 48,943
Jen 99 12.10 12.74 12.84 +0.11 20.74
Aug 99 12.10 12.74 12.84 +0.11 14.199
Est. seles 108,142 Tevrs soles 142,311
Turs open kal \$25,950, off 8,140

CAC 40 (MATIF)

Clese 1,175,70 1,436,10 74,59 184,64

Internet address:

http://www.iht.com

EUKO: Swiss Consider Joining

Continued from Page 11

becoming a two-currency nation. Manufacturers are ready to, do business in euros, hotels to take payment in euros. Big. retailers such as Migros AG, a kind of Swiss Wal-Mart, are programming cash registers for euros as well as Swiss,

Officially, any significant participation will take longer—perhaps much longer. Rudolf Baer, chief executive of Bank, Julius Baer, expects that East European countries in line to jointhe European Union in the next few years will take precedence. Switzerland, whose voters rejected a move toward European Union membership in a referendum in 1992, does' not have a realistic chance of joining the European Union, he. said, before 2010.

One big concern in the meantime is that the Swiss franc could grow too strong. If, at any point, a weakening euro spurs a flight of investment capital into Switzerland, the Swiss franc's value would rise, making the country's exports more expensive and undermining growth. Some large Swiss companies base their business on cur-

rencies other than the franc. ABB Asea Brown Boveri Ltd., the giant Swiss-Swedish industrial group, uses the dollar. are seen as a global company," Goran Lindahl, ABB's president and chief executive, said in an interview. "If we go." to the euro, then we are seen as a European company. Still, Mr. Lindahl will not rule out, somewhere down the

line, having ABB quote its shares on European stock markets in curos as well as in Swiss francs and Swedish kronor, as it does now. And ABB is fully prepared to bill customers in euros if they wish, and to pay suppliers in euros. Over time, ABB expects to use fewer currencies, lowering transaction costs and perhaps simplifying bookkeeping. It thinks this will reduce administrative costs, though it cannot say by how much.

The Swiss machinery industry — the biggest exporter, with \$37 billion in outside revenue — consists not only of giants like ABB but also of midsized manufacturers like Sulzer AG. and they are fast shifting to euros. Roughly two-thirds of total Swiss machinery exports go to European Union countries.

Two years ago, Mr. Fahrni pushed Sulzer's accountants and

computer specialists to begin preparations, so that by the beginning of last month, when the 11 countries formally adopted the euro, "almost all internal procedures, like billing and receiving euros," were in place. In recent negotiations with Sulzer's fuel-oil suppliers in London, Mr. Fahrni was told that long-term contracts for oil would soon be in euros.

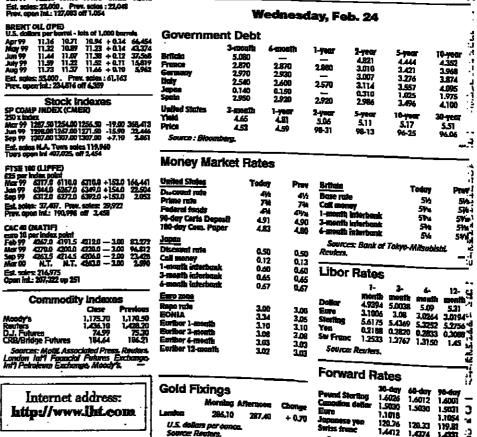
The euro, he said, will eliminate the costs of hedging against currency fluctuations, shaving 1 percent to 2 percent off transaction costs for the sale of products such as textile looms.

But there are risks. If the euro weakens against the Swiss. But there are risks. If the euro weakens against the Swiss-franc, Sulzer bears the currency loss. From 1994 to 1995, the dollar slipped nearly 25 percent against the Swiss franc, so while Sulzer's business in the United States grew 10 percent in dollar terms, it shrank 5 percent in francs. "To a lot of outside people, that was hard to understand," Mr. Fahrm said.

Thus, for many Swiss business leaders and economists, "considerable concern" exists for the stability of the Swiss franc and earn exchange rate said Georg Pick, chief economists, chief

franc and enro exchange rate, said Georg Rich, chief econ-omist at the Swiss central bank. The flip side is that the reliable franc helps bolster Switzerland's position as a prime banking

INTEREST RATES



286,10 287,40

18-YEAR FRENCH GOV. BONDS (MATIF) evro100,000 - pts of 100 pcl Mar 99 111.77 111.43 111.72 + 0.10 92,448 Jun 99 N.T. N.T. 96,28 + 0.07 2,546

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Ouster of Soudek at Skoda Rattles Czech Industrial Sector

By Peter S. Green International Herald Tribane

PRAGUE - The Czech Republic's debtridden industrial sector was in shock Wednesday over the firing of one of the country's most prominent businessmen, Lubomir Soudek, as chairman and chief executive of Skoda AS, the troubled heavy-machinery and truck manufacturer.

Creditor banks, which control Skoda's supervisory board, said Mr. Soudek was fired Monday for persistently failing to turn a profit despite several years of healthy revenue at the Plzen-based company.

But analysts say the banks' easy credit in the mid-1990s encouraged Mr. Soudek to waste money acquiring unprofitable companies. They say that Skoda is now likely to be broken up to cover its debts and that other large companies will suffer the same fate this

year.
The balance of power has shifted to the banks," said Ondrej Datka, an analyst at

Patria Finance AS in Prague. mobilova AS, the profitable automaker

owned by Volkswagen AG of Germany.

Because Skoda is one of the Czech Republic's largest companies, with 17,000 empublic's largest companies, with 17,000 empublic largest companies, with 17,000 empublic largest companies, with 17,000 empublic largest largest largest companies, with 17,000 empublic largest largest companies, with 17,000 empublic largest large ployees, mainly in the west Bohemian city of Pizen, and debts of at least 20.5 billion koruny (\$594 million), its troubles are at- from 23.5 billion koruny in 1996 to 23.4

tracting national attention.
"Soudek — victim or bad manager?" asked a front-page headline in the Mlada Fronta Dnes newspaper Wednesday.

Skoda was a poster child for the Czech Republic's own brand of cronyism, which tied large companies, government-owned banks and the governing parties that brought down Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus in late 1997. An audit last year established that Mr. Soudek personally transferred 1 million koruny into an account of Mr. Klaus's Civic Democratic Party in 1994, the same year he received large loans from state-controlled banks including Komercai Banka AS.

A spokesman for Komercni, which sits on Skoda's supervisory board, said it would move quickly to improve the company's financial management and would either find strategic partners or shut down divisions that could not be run profitably. Komercni, which the government hopes to sell soon, lost at least 10 billion korony last year.

Analysts said the Skoda brand name, which has represented the best in Czech

Skoda AS is not connected to Skoda Auto- engineering for more than 100 years, was probably history.

> Dedecek at Erste Bank in Prague. Skoda's consolidated sales fell slightly

billion koruny. Its loss widened from 2.2 and CKD Praha, an engineering company that billion koruny in 1996 to 3.8 billion koruny recently ceded control of a rail-car venture to in 1997 and could be between 500 million

and 1 billion koruny for 1998. of 997 on July 1, 1997.

step should have been restructuring and cutting back, but Soudek couldn't do it," Mr. Dedecek of Erste Bank said.

Mr. Soudek, who claims to own 28 percent of Skoda through a company he owns, has vowed to fight his way back. A general shareholders meeting is scheduled for March 25, and the Frankfurt Stock Exchange's custody agent is holding a bundle of Skoda shares - about 15 percent and growing daily - that analysts said could be the key to

If these shares are Mr. Soudek's, analysts said, he could threaten a court-ordered bankruptcy to force the bank to buy up his shares at a hefty premium. But analysis said Mr. Soudek, who once said the company should erect a statue of him next to that of its founder, Emil Skoda, may seek to retain some executive position at Skoda.

The banks' crackdown on Skoda means

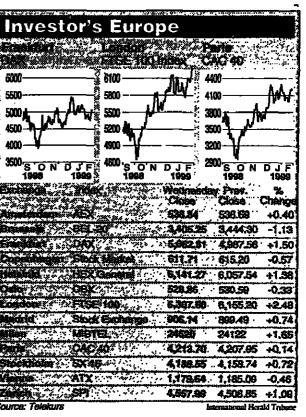
billion koruny in 1997, and analysts expect pol Group AS, a petrochemical giant that that 1998 sales reached only 18 billion to 19 owes some 30 billion koruny to its bankers, Siemens AG after massive cost overruns.

Prime Minister Milos Zeman has said that Skoda's share price rose 0.17 koruny to a third of Czech companies face possible close at 120, compared with its all-time high collapse brought on by the economic policies of his conservative predecessor, Mr. Klaus. "He bought the companies, and the next High debt burdens, high interest rates and a failure to restructure for post-Communist markets has left hundreds of companies fa-

cing bankruptcy or sale to foreign investors.

During Mr. Klaus's six-year rule, political pressure on state-owned banks kept loans flowing to industrial concerns, keeping unemployment low and economic growth high. But a year after Mr. Klaus left office, the country is mired in recession, memployment and trade deficits are rising, and the currency is falling. A recent government report said living standards had failen back to 1990 levels.

Mr. Soudek was the most prominent of a wave of younger Communist-era technocrats who took control of Czech industry by exploiting the country's loosely regulated mass privatization program and leveraging themselves into ownership slots at companies they had managed. Like Mr. Soudek, many were competent chemical or mechanical engineers, but they failed to master the other Czech industrial giants may now be in trouble, analysts said. These include Chemathrive in the post-Communist world.



Pay-TV Talks Draw Marks & Spencer Removes 31 Top Executives Regulatory Scrutiny

BRUSSELS — The European Union competition commissioner, Karel van Miert, said Wednesday he was closely monitoring talks between the two biggest European

Last month, Marks & Spencer restructured its businesses into three biggest pay-TV company in Europe, and British Sky Broadcasting Group PLC of Britain have reported. PLC of Britain have reportedly discussed forming a pan-European pay-TV superpower, though both have declined to comment.

matter," Mr. van Miert said at a ation will cut the board to 16 from 23 news conference.

Analysts said Mr. van Miert may be more amenable to the companies digital television, or in one country, than to a full-fledged merger that

LONDON - Marks & Spencer PLC fired three board directors and 28 divisional managers Wednesday, continuing a restructuring aimed at putting its struggling retail business back on track.

The changes "will enable us to be better focused and thus move strongly forward again," the chairman, Sir Richard Greenbury, said in "We are very sensitive to this a statement. In all, the reorganizover two years, the company said.

The executives who were fired. just a few weeks after a new chief sell off its U.S. businesses Brooks who will take early retirement May

Skoda's fate.

lowed a boardroom dispute over the succession to Sir Richard Green-restructured its businesses into three our markets.

19.75 peace to close at 401.75.

slump in its home market that fol- tribution.

Brothers and Kings Supermarkets. 31 are Derek Hayes, in charge of Marks & Spencer's shares rose continental Europe; Mr. Littmoden, who runs the North American busi-Marks & Spencer issued a profit ness, and John Sacher, responsible warning last month after a sales for information technology and dis-

Mr. Salsbury said the changes would shorten reporting lines to the board.

"Decision making will be devolved," he said, "enabling us to respond more effectively to our cus-Last month, Marks & Spencer tomers and to compete better in all

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

High Low Close Prev.

More Public-Sector Strikes in Germany

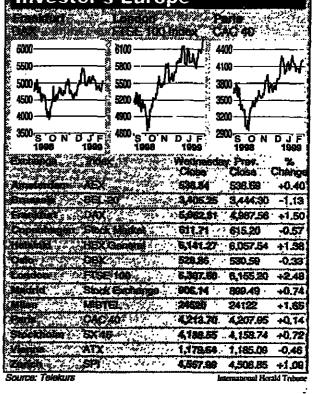
FRANKFURT - In a continuing wage battle in Germany's public sector, the OeTV and DAG unions cooperating in one area, such as executive, Peter Salsbury, took extended warning strikes Wednes-digital television, or in one country, than to a full-fledged merger that could stifle competition.

Sectut, the Cell V and DAG timons extended warning strikes Wedness-digital television, or in one country, than to a full-fledged merger that chief, Chris Littmoden, fueling spectrulation and garbage collection to a standstill in a number of regions.

In the state of Baden-Wuerttem- rupted in a number of towns and berg, buses and streetcars remained cities in the state of North Rhinein their depots in Stuttgart, Karls-Westohalia.

ruhe, Esslingen and Heidelberg. More than 700 garbage collectors

Wage talks for the 3.2 million people employed in the sectors are stration. And bus services were dis- a wage increase of 5.5 percent.



Very briefly:

• The Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-share index in London powered to a record close of 6,307.6 points, more than 100 points above its old record, fired by strong corporate results. The DAX index in Frankfurt was up 1.5 percent, and the CAC-40 in Paris was slightly higher.

 Deutsche Telekom AG plans to spend more than 20 billion
 Deutsche marks (\$11.3 billion) on acquisitions to strengthen its global position, the German magazine Capital reported.

• Allianz AG's net income rose 30 percent in 1998, to 3.5 billion Deutsche marks (\$1.97 billion), above expectations, led by increased income from its investments in stocks and bonds and a gain in life and casualty insurance.

• Spain's gross domestic product grew 3.8 percent in 1998, and the government said the first-quarter economic growth rate this year could be almost as high.

• Dassault Aviation SA posted unchanged net profit for 1998 of 206 million euros (\$226.7 million) and saw a jump in orders of 10 billion French francs (\$1.68 billion), with strong sales of both combat planes and business jets.

• Swiss Life/Rentenanstalt, a Swiss life insurer, plans to buy Lloyd Continental, a privately held French health-care insurer, for 3.24 billion French francs.

• Standard Chartered PLC will set aside more money for problem loans in Asia this year while increasing investment in

• Prudential Corp., Britain's largest insurer, posted a 2.4 percent decline in 1998 pretax profit, to £1.14 billion (\$1.84 in Heidelberg left waste cans on the roadside to take part in a demon- on Friday. The unions are calling for Britain and new products in the United States.

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AFP. Bloomberg, Reuters

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INTERNATIONAL INVESTING

If Good Dividends Attract You, Some Stocks Still Offer Them Value Line's Picks

TASHINGTON — Hardly dividend income any more. The average stock on the 8.5 percent. Dow Jones industrial average currently has a yield of just 1.6 percent. Invest pecially compared with long-term S1,000 and get checks for \$160 this Treasury bonds, which are yielding

Most investors figure, "Why should I bother with piddling income when I can idends tend to rise while interest pay-get huge growth?" Microsoft Corp. pays ments are fixed. Of course, there is anno dividend at all, but over the last four years it has soared 865 percent. Dividends are now seen as a sign that a stock

And do not forget that you pay taxes on dividends and interest each year, while you can let your capital appreciation on a stock ride tax-free forever. But income can also be beautiful -and a time like this, when investors thumb their noses at dividend stocks, may be the best time of all to buy.

• One example of what is available is a remarkable company called Allied Capital Corp. Allied makes most of its profit by lending money to small businesses at double-digit interest rates. Then, each year, like a real estate investment trust, it passes nearly all of that profit directly to

In 1998, Allied paid dividends total-

ing \$1.43 a share. On Tuesday, the stock closed at \$16.75 a share. So its "inanyone seems to care about dicated vield" (that is, its annualized dividend as a percentage of its price) is

> That is a delicious number — esaround 5.4 percent. The difference between a stock and a bond is that divother difference: Stocks do not guarantee their payouts, or even that they will send you a check at all.

> So it is reassuring to learn that Allied has paid dividends since 1964, increasing them every year. Assume you buy Allied tomorrow and that the company increases its payout by 8 percent annually for the next 10 years — about average for the company. The dividend would go from \$1.43 to \$3.09, and you would be earning a return on your original investment of 18 percent a year.

Still, investors should keep in mind plunged 73 percent.

But Capstead is a risky business. Al- and Gibson Guitar Co.

JAMES K. GLASSMAN / ON INVESTING

lied's history indicates that it is not. ecutive in 1997, said that over 40 years, loan losses have averaged just 1 percent of outstanding debt.

'a big hole in the market'' - businesses on top of deals" made by private-equity funds such as the Carlyle Group in Washington or Kolberg Kravis, Roberts & Co. in New York. Those firms mainly take back stock or warrants for their money while Allied mainly earns in-

Mr. Walton, who once served as personal venture-capital adviser to William Paley, the late CBS chairman, continues to put the bulk of Allied's \$856 million in assets into the solid, boring businesses such troubled companies as Capstead he truly loves — Sydran Food Services Mortgage Co., which used considerable debt to purchase mortgage securities and had to stop paying its dividend last summer after suffering losses. The stock plunged 73 percent to the stock of Loewen Group Inc., funeral services,

How does Allied decide whether a William Walton, who became chief ex- company is worthy of its loans - which, by the way, averaged 12.5 percent in interest last year?

Mr. Walton said he looks for compa-Allied targets what Mr. Walton calls nies with a strong market share and a "a big hole in the market" — businesses high customer-retention rate. Also, he that are too small to issue their own debt wants a strong balance sheet, aboveand that need money for longer periods average profit margins, high returns on than banks will tolerate. "We piggyback invested capital — but not much new capital required each year.

Sounds great, but do such companies

Absolutely. Thousands of them. Mr. Walton points to some that have been Allied customers: a company with a 70 percent share of the market in the tape that goes on Venetian blinds, another that makes auto radiators as replacements for used cars, one that dominates the business of making the enamel for cent? nail polish and a giant in cake-baking

'We want to lend to companies we are comfortable with, that we understand," he said. "My lesson to small investors is that this is overwhelmingly a commonsense business. What you need to know is why a company is going to grow."

In 1998, Allied originated or pur-chased loans totaling \$524 million — 44. percent more than in the previous year. Net income rose 21 percent, to \$78 million. The company's return on equity (or earnings as a percentage of what shareholders have invested in the company) increased to a hefty 19 percent.

But right now, investors are not impressed. Allied stock is down for the year and off more than \$10 from its April 1998 high. It was battered in autumn as investors abandoned private lenders in a flight to quality (that is, to Treasury bonds). The stock's recovery since Oc-

tober has been painfully slow. But true income investors should not care as much about the stock price as about the yield and about the chances that the annual payout will increase. After all, would you rather have bought Allied at \$27 last April, when it was yielding 5 percent, or at \$16.75 today, when it is yielding more than 8 per-

The big question is the future, and Allied seems to be taking advantage of bargains the market is offering. This week the company is buying \$160 million in junk-rated commercial real estate debt from Dentsche Bank Securities Inc. After the Russian loan default, the mar- answer all queries.

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Washington Post Service Each week, the Value Line Investment Survey produces lists of "screened" stocks that meet stringent qualifications. They must high price-appreciation potential for the next three to five years, earnings growth averaging at least 25 percent for the last five years, average safety

and above average timeliness.

The winners: Keane Inc., software; Jones Pharma Inc., drugs; Robert Half International Inc., staffing; Gtech Holdings Corp., lottery products; United HealthCare Corp., health management; Concord EFS Inc., electronic transactions; Esterline Technologies Corp., robotics; 3Com Corp., networking; Barr Laboratories Inc., drugs, and Omnicare Inc., geriatrics.

_ JAMES K. GLASSMAN

ket in below-investment-grade mortgages, even in the United States, tanked. But deals now appear attractive—yields of 15 percent—for companies willing to take the plunge.

James K. Glassman's e-mail address is jkglassman@iht.com. He welcomes and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. comments but regrets that he cannot

Investor Beware: Trade On-Line but at Your Own Risk

By Gretchen Morgenson New York Times Service

tashionable for investors to think company is a member of the Nathey no longer need brokers to help them with their investments. A computer, a modem and an on-line account, so the thinking goes, are all one needs to make a fortune in

ther customers away from invest- by its rules; companies that belong ment mistakes, a task that not even to the NASD follow its regulations. the smartest machine can do.

stocks that is possible today requires leaves investors who use association of on-line investors a heightened re- brokers more vulnerable. The difsponsibility for their actions, and ference involves "suitability," a huge losses from an inappropriately ing Corp., E*Trade Group Inc., change requires?"

few investors may realize just what pillar of the securities laws. this responsibility involves.

Investors may not know, for ex-NEW YORK — It has become ample, that if their on-line trading make sure that an investment is tional Association of Securities Dealers and problems crop up in their accounts, they may be left

holding the bag.
In the United States, about 100 brokerage firms offer on-line trading Never mind that a big part of an services. Those that are members of

A little-known but crucial dif-. The fact is, the electronic access to ference between the two sets of rules

terest on loans.

suited to a client's needs and circumstances before making the sale, companies offer research reports even if the transaction was the investor's idea, not the broker's.

By contrast, if a customer trading through an NASD company buys a stock that has not been recommended by the broker, the company is under a law office in New York. honest broker's job is keeping his or the New York Stock Exchange abide no obligation to evaluate whether the

investment is appropriate.

Although this difference has existed for years, the popularity of online trading makes it a concern.

risky investment cannot sue the Datek and SureTrade Inc. The New York Stock Exchange company to recover on suitability essentially requires its members to grounds unless the company recommended the investment. Clouding the issue is that many on-line

> that make recommendations. The association rule creates a major gap in investor protection, says Lewis Lowenfels, a specialist in securities law at Tolins & Lowenfels,

> Much of U.S. on-line trading is done at association companies. Of the top 15 on-line brokerage companies in the United States, according to Gomez Advisors Inc.,

"Suitability is one of the main avenues of protection under federal securities laws for investors," Mr. Lowenfels said.

An average of 29 percent of arbitration cases filed with the association each year since 1995 involved investments alleged to have been unsuitable for the customer who bought

them, according to the association. The association says it is re-examining its rule, given the recent surge in on-line trading.

"The technology offered by these

firms is very enticing," Mr. Lowen-fels said. "With that enticement, A customer of an NASD member eight are NASD members. These shouldn't their responsibilities rise company who trades his way into include the giants Ameritrade Hold- to what the New York Stock Ex-

Very briefly:

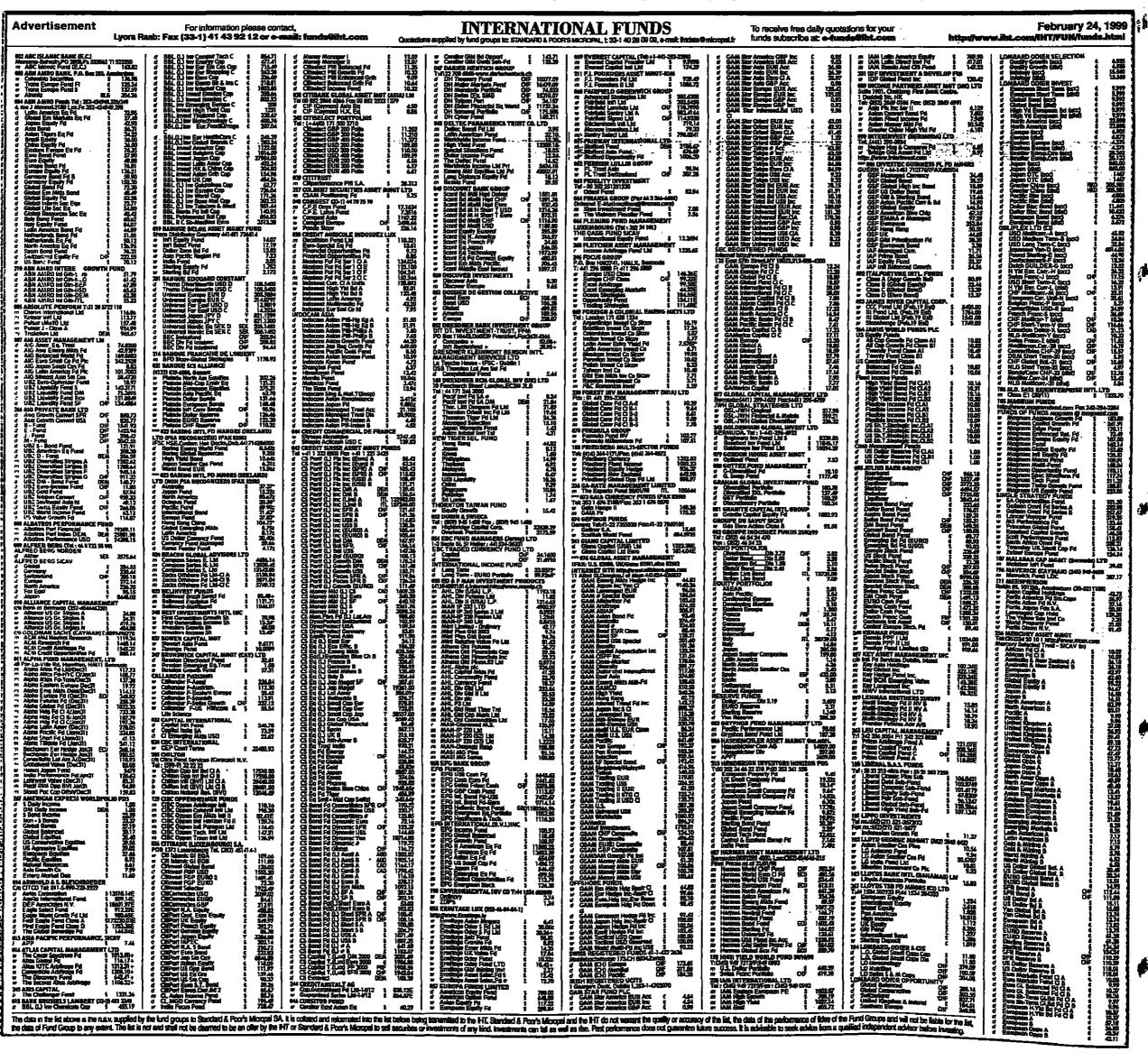
• The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and the International Organization of Securities Commissions said companies using derivatives should give a clear picture of their activities and the impact on earnings in financial statements.

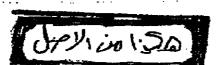
Salomon Smith Barney Inc., the investment banking unit of Citigroup Inc., hired Richard Wei from Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. to head its Asian regional technology research team. Mr. Wei will pay particular attention to technology-related communic in Hand Vana and Tairman.

lated companies in Hong Kong and Taiwan. Jeffrey Vinik, a former manager of Fidelity Investments' flagship Magellan Fund who now runs a hedge fund, added several new technology holdings to his portfolio in the fourth quarter, including Compaq Computer Corp., Electronics for Imaging Inc., Rational Software Corp. and Flexironics International Ltd., according to government filings.

• Hang Fung Gold Technology Ltd., a Hong Kong-based maker of jewelry, is planning an initial public offering for a March 19 listing in Hong Kong, making it the fourth company in the region to issue new shares this year.

• Green Line Investor Services Ltd., a unit of the U.S. on-line broker Waterhouse Investor Services Inc., has launched its on-line service in Australia.





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ASIA/PACIFIC

China Faces Trade Challenge in Its WTO Bid

Agence France-Presse

BELING - China faces a tough year on the foreign-trade front, the official media said Wednesday, a day after U.S. officials treed Zhu Rongji. Beijing to open its markets wider to gain early entry into the World Trade Organization.

"China's trade prospects remain difficult this year and the state should further accelerate reform of the foreign trade and industrial sectors to promote growth," the China Daily said, quoting Zhang Hanlin, associate professor with the University of International Business and Economics.

"The situation faced by China's foreign trade and industrial sectors will be even tougher this year," the newspaper said.

Agence France-Presse

HANOI - Vietnam's trade pic-

ture has darkened as a newly in-

troduced value-added tax has begun

The value of overall trade de-

the first two months of the year,

according to the General Depart-

taking its toll, economists said.

The comments were published as ing on Nov. 30 in Seattle. Lawrence Summers, the U.S.

deputy Treasury secretary, left 12 years to enter the trade orga-Beijing on Wednesday after meet- nization. \$40 billion last year, which coning Tuesday with top Chinese of-ficials, including Prime Minister

Mr. Summers said Mr. Zhu had assured him China still had "a very great interest in reaching a mutually satisfactory agreement" with the United States so it can join the

World Trade Organization. But he also said that if "a mutually satisfactory agreement" is not reached in a few months, "we are looking at a more complicated situation in which China's efforts to join the WTO will be compounded with

efforts to negotiate a new round." The next round of multilateral trade negotiations is scheduled to start with a WTO ministerial meet-

percent during the period to \$33

million as imports fell sharply and

exports were flat, according to pre-

driven up prices of imports but also

suffering because the value-added

tax charged on imports is refunded

The value-added tax has not only

liminary statistics.

clined 8 percent to \$2.96 billion in increased export costs. Exporters are

ment of Statistics. At the same time, only when goods are re-exported, the country's trade deficit shrank 90 causing carrying costs to rise.

China has been seeking to join the WTO under terms for developing countries but the United States and Europe say China's markets and economy are far too big to qualify for membership under those terms.

The visit by Mr. Summers was the first in a series of U.S. efforts to put will be difficult at a time when foreign investment fell slightly. China's economy is slowing.

China's declining imports had allowed the country to maintain a trade surplus in the face of virtually flat export growth in 1998.

15.4 percent compared with the

year-earlier period to \$1.49 billion.

while exports rose a modest 0.4 per-

"Exports are really struggling and

most people are besitating, analyzing the uncertainties of the market

and whether they should import," a

top government economist said.

cent to \$1.46 billion.

tributed heavily to the country's economic growth," he said.

conomic growth," he said.
"In addition to weak domestic demand, falling import prices were also an important cause of the decrease in import value," Mr. Wang said. Although China has so far es-

first in a series of U.S. efforts to put caped largely unscathed from the pressure on Beijing to open up its economy, a move that analysts say saw virtually flat growth in 1998 and

The U.S. trade representative, Wang Xiaotu, deputy director of the National Economic Research Inington that the United States would stitute, told the China Daily that not give special terms for China's admission to the WTO. She said that while a transition

period may be appropriate for China to come into line with WTO regg on Nov. 30 in Seattle. "Due to the negative growth in clations, "China needs to move imports, China maintained a favoralong with the rest of the world."

velopment Program in Hanoi, said

Vietnam's non-tariff trade barriers

and weak domestic demand con-

slamped 8.5 percent and imports

covery will depend on its ability to

Among foreign ventures, exports

Economists say that export re-

tributed to the decline in imports.

dropped 25.7 percent.

Imports in the period plunged economist of the United Nations De-

Robert Gloscheski, the chief free up its export quota system.

Vietnam's Trade Suffers as Value-Added Tax Takes a Toll

from its 1997 net profit of 3.8 billion Taiwan dollars. Acer has yet to an-

Acer made a splash into the U.S. retail market in the mid-1990s by launching slim, pastel-colored PCs.

"We will continue to promote our own brand in the United States through selling computers over the

tively invest in U.S. high-technology firms so that we can get early involvement to develop related new

1999 earnings. "The U.S. retail computer market is so highly competitive that it is

After the move, we should be able to see improving profit performance of Acer in 1999."

sales is limited to the United States. Acer shares closed Wednesday in Taiwan 60 cents higher at 37.20

Acer to Stop Hong Kong Retail Sales 11000-10000-9000 -8000 ₄ 7000/-

Rewiers TAIPEI - Acer Inc., the largest computer maker in Taiwan, said Wednesday it would halt retail sales in the United States because of losses and would focus instead on corporate sales. The move is to cope with our

1998 losses of \$50 million in our U.S. unit," an Acer spokesman said. "Profit is our top concern now."

The spokesman said sales of its retail family of computers would now be conducted mainly through the Internet — a rising trend among U.S. customers to buy directly from the manufacturer.

Due partly to losses at its U.S. unit, Acer in December cut its 1998 net profit forecast to 2.5 billion Taiwan dollars (\$75.59 million) from 3.5 billion dollars.

The scaled-back profit forecast would represent a 34 percent drop nounce its 1998 profit.

Internet," the spokesman said.
"We also will continue to ac-

products," he added. Industry analysts said the new move should help improve Acer's

hard to earn any profits, so Acer's strategy is correct," said Albert Lin, a Hotting Securities vice president.

Acer's withdrawal from retail



Very briefly:

• DaimlerChrysler AG denied a Japanese news agency report that it had reached a basic agreement with Nissan Motor Co. to purchase an equity stake in Japan's second largest carmaker. "There is no decision," a DaimlerChrysler spokesman said in Frankfurt.

• Pohang Iron & Steel Co., the state-run South Korean company that is the world's second-largest steelmaker, will seek shareholder approval to issue extra shares if management wants to block a hostile takeover.

 Daiei Inc., Japan's largest supermarket chain, will sell shares in Lawson, its convenience store unit, to generate cash to offset losses from bailing out affiliated real estate companies.

 China's major airlines are trying to return to profitability this year by cutting flights, being stingier with discounts and reducing their financial contribution to new aviation facilities. China Southern Airlines Co., China Eastern Airlines Corp. and Air China all lost money in 1998.

• PT Telkom, Indonesia's biggest company and dominant phone company, posted profit of 1.7 trillion rupiah (\$1.92 billion) in 1998, up a better-than-expected 1.5 percent from 1997, as it deferred foreign-exchange losses.

• AMP Ltd., the Australian financial services giant, posted annual operating profit of 1.03 billion Australian dollars (\$658.1 million) in 1998, up 16 percent from 1997. But an extraordinary charge meant the bottom-line result was a loss of 646 million dollars. Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP

Taiwan Enacts Reforms to Aid Stability and Growth the Asian economic crisis and fi- to strengthen the island's financial Under the new package, laws would be designed to encourage

proved an economic reform package on Wednesday that combined short-term and long-term measures to bol-top official economic planning ster the financial markets and boost economic growth.

sue economic growth," Prime Minister Vincent Siew said.

He said Taiwan faced tough economic challenges amid fallout from dium-term and long-term measures investigate firms.

TAIPEI - Taiwan's cabinet ap nancial troubles at local enter-

agency, the Council for Economic Planning and Development, after "The targets of the package are to bush for economic reform and purious and industry leaders at a con-

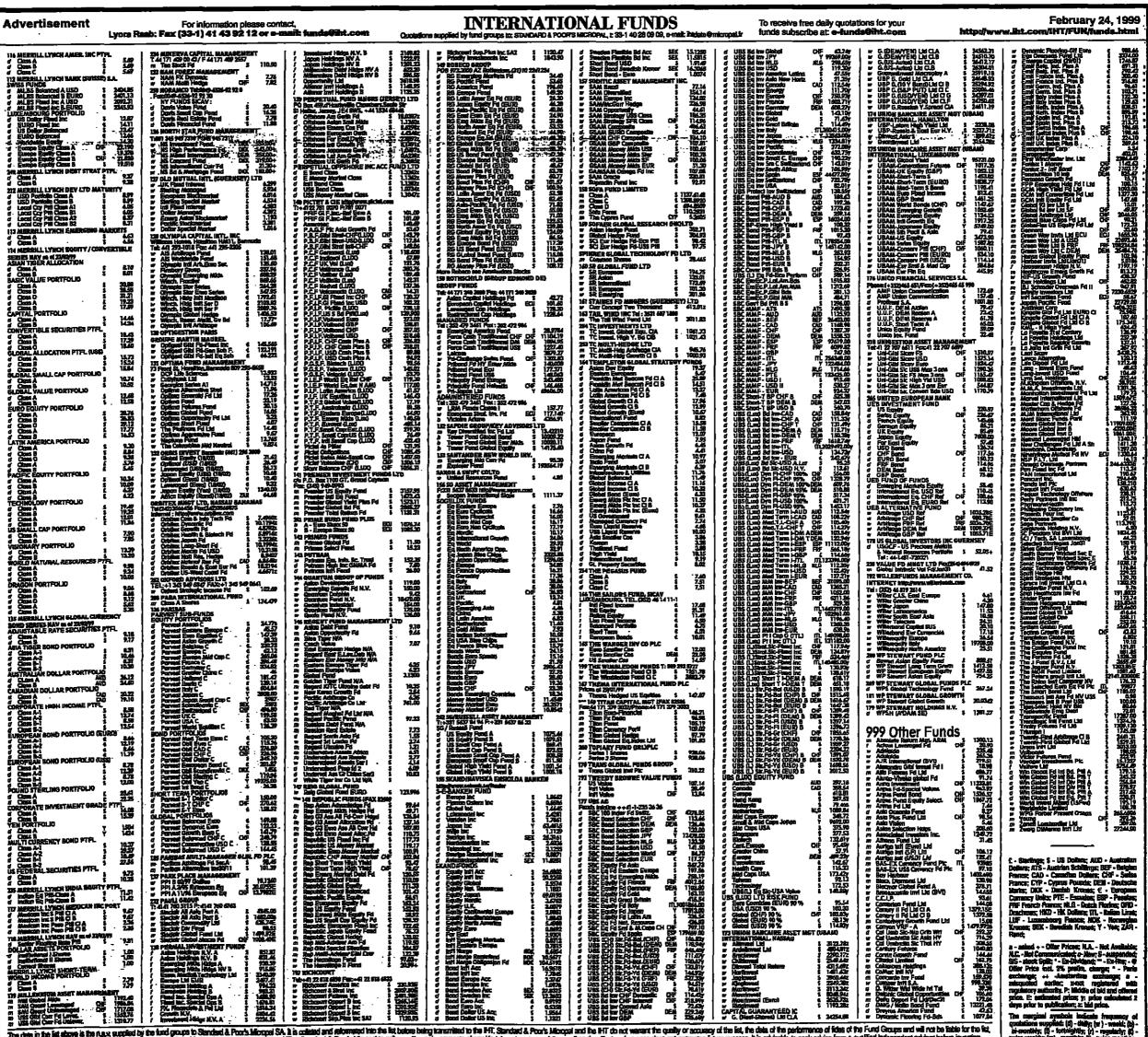
ference on Feb. 13. Prime Minister Siew said the package included short-term, me-

systems and economic fundamentals, measures on corporate re-en- mergers of financial institutions as and policies on land management process for capital expansion. and housing.

ulations to limit using stocks as collateral, to ensure transparency of businesses, the backbone of Taiinformation from listed firms and to give the Securities and Futures emptions to selected industries in

gineering, labor-related regulations well as impose a strict reviewing Other measures would be imple-

The new measures include reg- mented to upgrade local industry and assist small and medium-sized wan's economy, by granting tax ex-Commission the power and funds to the manufacturing, agricultural and services sectors.



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Herald Eribune **SPORTS**



Sadagopan Ramesh playing a hook shot on his way to 143.

India in Control

CRICKET Sadagopan Ramesh struck his first test century Wednesday and Rahul Dravid also scored a hundred as India reached 351 for the loss of three wickets on the first day of its Asian test championship match against Sri Lanka in Colombo. This is the second match in a three-test series involving India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. India lost the opening match to Pakistan in Calcutta.

Campos's Father Freed

SOCCER The father of Jorge Campos, the Mexican national soccer team goalie, was resting at home after being freed by kidnap-pers who held him for six days in western Mexico.

Alvaro Campos, 66, was released Tuesday morning along a highway outside Acapulco.

"My father is well," Jorge Campos said. "The doctor said he is in good health and that the only thing he needed was rest."

Asked if any ransom was paid, he replied: "I don't think so."

Police said they were continuing to investigate the kidnapping. (AP)

NFL Investigates Bidders

FOOTBALL The National Football League has hired Terry Lenzner's Investigative Group International to make background checks of the lead investors in a group seeking to purchase the Washington Redskins for \$800 million, the league said Tuesday. Lenzner is a private investigator known for probing the private lives of political candidates, We're performing normal due

diligence," said Greg Aiello, an NFL spokesman.

Robert McNeal, a former FBI agent who runs another investigative firm retained by the league, said: "Anybody that gets involved with team ownership, we looked at their background, and they know

Fox Steals ESPN Wind

SAILING ESPN, the U.S. sports network, is apparently having second thoughts over its estimated S4 million offer for U.S. television rights to the America's Cup next winter. The deal was all but signed in January when ESPN's chief rival, Fox Sports Net, became sponsor for the New York Yacht Club's boat. Young America, which means the sails would carry Fox logos during races. The contract has been in limbo since. (WP)

WORLD ROUNDUP Blatter Delays Plan for Cup **Every 2 Years**

The Associated Press

GENEVA — Sepp Blatter, the president of FIFA, backed off Wednesday from his controversial plan for a World Cup soccer tournament every two years. He said the international soccer schedule needed to be reorganized before the idea could become a reality.

The head of soccer's world governing body met Wednesday with Lennart Jo-hansson, the head of UEFA, which runs European soccer. Johansson has op-posed the plan because it threatened the prominence of European competitions. Johansson said he was still doubtful about the idea although he had not ruled

"UEFA has not closed the door," he said. "It still does not support the idea, but it has not closed the door."

Blatter, who had been pushing for a biennial World Cup, said adjusting the world schedule would take about 18 months and had to come first.

He said it was still possible that the World Cup could become biennial from

"I'm going to present the idea to the executive committee," Blatter said after meeting with Johansson, who opposed him last year for the presidency of FIFA. "They have a right to know what went on here. But I'm not going to take it to a

He said the international schedule was now the top item.

Johansson said he and Blatter had 'agreed we needed to talk about the calendar and to study it before addressing the idea of a World Cup every two



Arsenal's Steve Bould leaping above the Sheffield Wednesday defense during their FA Cup fifth-round replay at Highbury. Arsenal won, 2-1. days before resigning on a point of prin-

Real Madrid Rejects Hiddink for Toshack

Compiled by Our Said From Disposcher

MADRID - Guus Hiddink was fired league. as coach of Real Madrid in the early hours of Wednesday, and by afternoon the Spanish club seemed to have lined up

A spokesman for Besiktas, a Turkish club, said the manager John Toshack

"Yes he is leaving us," said the late goal for United on Tuesday to reach spokesman, Cenk Koray. "There's no-

EUROPIAN SOCCIR

and going to Real Madrid."

Toshack guided Real Madrid to the Spanish first division title in 1990 but was dismissed 11 games into the fol-

the former Dutch national team coach, a week before the club plays Dynamo Kelly in the 15th minute.

Kiev in a European Cup quarterfinal.

Madrid directors met after the Eurocean Champion beat Racing Santander, 1-0. Tuesday in a Spanish Cup quarterfinal second leg game. It took just over an hour to decide to get rid of Hiddink.

"The directors have taken a decision we don't like, but we have decided that it would be better if Guns Hiddink goes, said Lorenzo Sanz, the Real president.

This is the seventh coaching change at Real Madrid since Sanz became president in November 1995. Hiddink was far from first choice to

replace the unpopular German coach Jupp Heynckes, who had led Real Mad-rid to the European Cup last May. Jose Antonio Camacho lasted just 22 player to receive treatment.

cipal over the club's treatment of a col-

ENGLAND Marc Overmars, at the center of controversy in the original game, scored the opening goal as Arsenal bear. Sheffield United, 2-1, in an unprece-

dented FA Cup rematch

The cup holder held out for the last three minutes after Lee Morris scored a

Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, offered a rematch after Overmars score

the winning goal "against the spirit of the game" in the first game. thing we can do. Toshack is leaving us "It shows you can play fair and win," Wenger said. "It was important to restore the spirit of the game but also

important to win." Overmars, booed at every touch by Real's board decided to drop Hiddink, the United fans, seized a Stephen

Dennis Bergkamp increased the lead with a sublime goal 20 minutes later.

With his back to the goal, he chipped the ball perfectly over Kelly and into the

Asked about Overmars, Wenger said: "He was maybe upset about the crit-icism he received. The club got credit but he didn't. But the best answer was to show the sort of game he had tonight." The original match ended in an uprout after Overmars scored the winner from

The Nigerian collected a ball from an Arsenal throw that United had been expecting to be given because the team had put it out of play to allow an injured

(AP, Reuters)

Match-Play Championships Attract the Best

International Herald Tribune Seville, Spain — When Greg Norman floated the idea of a world golf tour, the notion quickly lost impetus because it lacked support from the game's power brokers. But it was not because those brokers disliked the concept.

On Wednesday, Norman's sport took a step toward a more global approach when the world's best players took to the course at the La Costa resort, just north of San Diego, for the brand of golf than stroke play, in Andersen Consulting World Match which the low scorer over a multiple-Play Championships. Like many a golf event, it has a

cumbersome name, one that makes you long for the simplicity of "The Masters," or "The Open," which is it is also because of the match-play the elements. Stefania Belmondo, the diminutive Italian who grew up in the equally diminutive town of Ponte what the British proudly call the major championship their nation hosts each July. And in normal circumstances, the last thing this overexposed sport and its overprogrammed stars need is another tournament or corporate spon-

But this week's event is intriguing because of its field and format. Andersen has been sponsoring a "World Championship" tournament since 1995, but these never attracted the depth of talent that this year's revamped and more comprehensible version will attract.

There will be three World Championship events during the season. At La Costa, the top 64 players in the world rankings have been given autocline the honor was Jumbo Ozaki of Japan, which allowed the world's of being supplanted, but if there is to be a fifth someday, it had best be a temperature of the companion of matic entries. The only player to de-

In the Arena / Christopher Clarry

group he once dominated. Faldo was to play the world No. 1 Figer Woods on Wednesday, and even if Faldo is spending more time in the defeating Woods last year - but it had woods than challenging one these only 12 players in its field. face each other over 18 holes or more, didate. is a consistently more entertaining

day event is the winner. Indeed, nationalism is not the only format. Other first-round encounters Wednesday included Ernie Els vs. the would-be impresario, against John

has a world circuit in the form of the American PGA Tour, where Woods, David Duval, Mark O'Meara, Els and most of the world's most recognizable golfers earn the bulk of their prosperous livings. But there are enough alented stragglers based in Europe -Colin Montgomerie, Lee Westwood, Darren Clarke and Jose Maria Olazabal - and in Asia and Oceania to justify events that bring the best to-

aiready a World Match Play Championship in Wentworth, England in October - an event O'Meara won by

days, it is a compelling pairing. But Andersen's event has 64 of the then match play, in which two golfers world's top 65. Consider it a can-

UNLIKE GOLFERS, the only country skiers are subject to is from Bernardo (population 25), has been fighting through the snow, sleet and headwinds for more than a decade, and Paul Azinger, Justin Leonard vs. headwinds for more than a decade, and Miguel Angel Jirnenez, Bernhard it is a pleasure to see her finally get her Langer vs. Brad Faxon and Norman, due at this week's World Nordic

Championships in Ramsau, Austria. Belmondo has had success in major One could argue that golf already events in the past. She won a gold as a world circuit in the form of the medal at the 1992 Olympics and two merican PGA Tour, where Woods, golds at the 1993 World Championships, but she has long been over-shadowed by the divas of her grueling sport. Although she was the first Italian woman to win an Olympic cross-country medal, her flashier domestic archrival, Manuela Di Centa, trumped her by winning five at the 1994 Games in Lillehammer.

At the 1997 worlds in Trondheim, that anyone who saves another's life in Norway, Belmondo finished second high, frigid seas deserves some le-At the 1997 worlds in Trondheim, cline the honor was Jumbo Ozaki of Japan, which allowed the world's of being supplanted, but if there is to 65th-ranked player, a suddenly hard-luck Nick Faldo, to rejoin the elite of the honor was Jumbo Ozaki of Golf's four majors are in no danger our times to her close friend, Yelena niency, just as long as he and Autissier valbe of Russia, sobbing after Valbe of Russia, sobbing after Valbe ation, and she gets off (safely) in Uruluck Nick Faldo, to rejoin the elite of the honor was Jumbo Ozaki of Golf's four majors are in no danger of the remain discrete about their cooperdefeather in a photo finish in the 10-ation, and she gets off (safely) in Uruluck Nick Faldo, to rejoin the elite of the honor was Jumbo Ozaki of Golf's four majors are in no danger of the remain discrete about their cooperdefeather in a photo finish in the 10-ation, and she gets off (safely) in Uruluck Nick Faldo, to rejoin the elite of the remain discrete about their cooperdefeather in a photo finish in the 10-ation, and she gets off (safely) in Uruluck Nick Faldo, to rejoin the elite of the remain discrete about their cooperdefeather in a photo finish in the 10-ation and the remain discrete about their cooperdefeather in a photo finish in the 10-ation and the remain discrete about their cooperdefeather in a photo finish in the 10-ation and the remain discrete about their cooperdefeather in a photo finish in the 10-ation and the remain discrete about their cooperdefeather in a photo finish in the 10-ation and the remain discrete about their cooperdefeather in a photo finish in the 10-ation and the remain discrete about their cooperdefeather in a photo finish in the 10-ation and the remain discrete about their cooperdefeather in a photo finish in the 10-ation and the remain discrete about the remain discrete ab

she arrived into the 1998 Olympics as a heavy favorite for multiple gold be-cause of her affinity for hilly terrain but failed to win any as the Russians swept the five events.

'After I lost to Valbe in Trondheim, I thought I would never win another major title, and what happened in Nagano made me doubt all the more," she said.

But after two individual events in Ramsan she now has two gold medals, and one of those yelling encouragement at her alongside the overexposure that women's cross- tracks has been the now-retired

ш

SUPPORT HAS BEEN a more contentious issue in the Around Alone race. Shortly after Giovanni Soldini changed course and bravely rescued his fellow competitor and good friend, Isabelle Autissier, from her capsized vacht in the Southern Ocean. Autissier made it clear that she was helping Soldini on board as he sailed for the finish line of the third leg in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

"I can't help being a sailor on a

boat." she said. The problem is that this is a solo sailing race, and Soldini's only remaining competitor in Class One, Marc Thiercelin, has no one on board to help share the watch. It is a tough call for a race jury, but the view here is

Playing for Holes, Not Strokes, Takes **Getting Used To**

CARLSBAD, California - The World

Match Play Championships opened Wednesday with words that haven't been heard in 14 years on the PGA Tour.
"That's good," Greg Norman said to
John Cook, conceding a short putt on the

second hole.

The match play format provided the excitement and the \$1 million first prize drew the best field outside a major tournament. Even the first-day losers were guaranteed

\$25,000 for a day's work. It didn't take too long for players to feel the ups and downs of playing for holes instead of strokes. Justin Leonard lost two of the first three holes to Miguel Angel Jimenez, then came back to win the next four.

By the time the last putt fell in the opening round, half the world's top 64 golfers were to have been eliminated. No less an observer than Norman said it was possible that the casualties would include Tiger Woods, the top player in the field, who played Nick Faldo, the bottom one. The winners advance to a second round

Thursday, which will narrow the field to 16 players, and the winners of those matches Friday morning will have to play again in the afternoon to get to the semifinal matches on

The final Sunday is scheduled for 36 holes, with the winner picking up \$1 million and the loser pocketing \$500,000. The two semifinal losers play a consolation match, with \$400,000 going to the winner and \$300,000 to the loser. "That's not what I'm here for," Lee Westwood said, of the huge purse. "But it is always handy."

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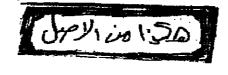
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SPORTS

As Rodman Finally Signs, Lakers Lose 3d Straight

He's not exactly a white knight riding in on a majestic steed. But it doesn't matter to the Los Angeles Lakers, who will take just about any hero right now.

On the night that Dennis Rodman, the seven-time league rebounding champion, signed with the Lakers, they lost their third game in as many days and sank to 6-6. Just 24 hours after

NBA ROUNDUP

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an overtime loss at Denver, the Lakers fell Tuesday night to another lowly team, the Vancouver Grizzlies, 93-83.

"I don't think it's the distractions," Shaquille O'Neal, the Lakers' center said. "I'm annoyed with myself and my teammates. We have to prepare much better and play much

Maybe that will happen with Rodman aboard — he is expected to play Friday night

against the Clippers. The Lakers were outrebounded, 49-41, on Tuesday in Vancouver. They put the Grizzlies on the free-throw line 45 times. And they shot

a miserable 28 for 79 from the floor. Heat 96, Wizards 80 Alonzo Mourning was a one-man wrecking crew as Miami won in Washington. The former Georgetown center returned to dominate the Wizards with 29 points and 12 rebounds.



Chris Gatling of the Nets trying a hook 0-5 start. The host Clippers wasted a strong shot over Marcus Camby of the Knicks outing by Lamond Murray, who scored 30 Chris Gatling of the Nets trying a hook in New York's victory over its local rival. points, as they fell to 0-9.

points, 11 rebounds and 7 blocked shots, and host New York was stingy again on defense, holding hold New Jersey to 29 percent shooting. The Knicks have held opponents to averages of 34 percent shooting and 74 points in

their seven victories. Ewing has 18 blocks in the last three games and he outrebounded Jayson Williams, 11-7.

The Nets have lost four in a row. Bucks 90, Bulls 88 Glenn Robinson's dunk with four seconds left sealed the victory for Milwaukee after Chicago rallied from 13 points down in its third game in three nights. Robinson finished with 24 points, while Ray Allen and Dell Curry each had 16. Terrell

Brandon had 10 points to go with his season-Tom Kukoc had 19 points to lead four Bulls in double figures.

It was the fifth straight loss at home for Chicago, which is off to its worst start since the 1976-77 season.

sies 85 Cuttino Mobley of the Rockets scored 13 of his 19 points in a tense fourth quarter. Houston also got 19 points each from Hakeem Olajuwon and Scottie Pippen, but it was Mobley who kept them in the lead in the final period, scoring nine straight points in one stretch.

Visiting Seattle, which started the season 5-0, has lost three of five games.

Pistons 106, Reptors 80 Joe Dumars returned to the Detroit lineup with 16 points and 5 assists. Playing in his 14th and final season, Dumars has already missed four games with a

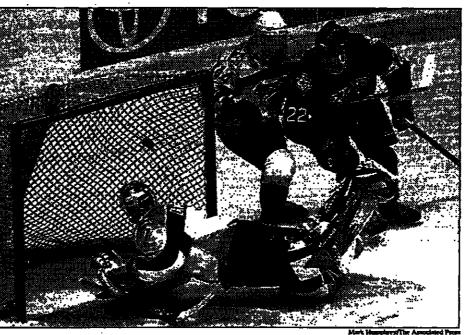
way for Grant Hill and Jerry Stackhouse to slash to the basket. Hill had 14 points, 10 assists and 9 rebounds, while Stackhouse led host Detroit with 18 points.

Mayericks 89, Hewks 86 Michael Finley scored six points in the final 81 seconds as Dallas snapped a four-game losing streak to Atlanta and won at home for the first time this

Finley, who had 22 points, hit two comer was on the ice. The only thing shots and put the Hawks away with two free I noticed was that he didn't throws with 12.1 seconds left. Robert Pack yell at me when I made a had 15 points and Gary Trent added 12 points and 10 rebounds for the winners.

Warriors 94, Clippers 88 Bimbo Coles hit a pair of 20-foot jumpers to draw Golden State even in the closing moments, then added four free throws in the last 18 seconds.

Coles finished with 15 points for Golden State, which has won five of its last six after an



Nashville's Mike Dunham diving for a goal by Dallas's Mike Modano, his third of the night. The Predators' Kimmo Timonen and the Stars' Bret Hull (22) look on.

Homecoming for a Coach

Crawford's Canucks Draw, 4-4, in His Return to Denver

The Associated Press
DENVER — Marc Crawford was back patrolling the bench in Denver, just as he did for three seasons with the Colorado Avalanche. This for Colorado, while Van- hat trick in three games by strained hamstring.

Dumars's outside shooting also opened the the Vancouver Canucks, his time, he was barking orders at couver's Markus Naslund

Avalanche players said they really weren't aware of had two shorthanded goals Crawford's presence during and an assist. Tuesday night's 4-4 tie.

"I was concentrating on the game," said Sandis Ozolinsh, an Avalanche defenseman. "It wasn't as if he

Adam Deadmarsh scored his second goal of the game at ton, who started in place of 7:09 of the third period, lifting the Avalanche into the 4-4 deadlock.

"It was great to be back, and it was nice to get a point," said Crawford, who coached the Avalanche to a Stanley Cup three years ago. He de-

stances last spring, belatedly ford succeeded Mike Keenan being offered a contract ex- as head coach Jan. 24. tension and turning it down.

Ozolinsh had four assists

NHL ROUNDUP

It was a franchise record

fourth consecutive tie for the Avalanche. The Canucks snapped a three-game losing streak during which they were outscored by a combined score of 17-2. The Vancouver goalie,

Garth Snow, had 39 saves, and Colorado's Craig Billingthe injured Patrick Roy, had 23 saves. Naslund said the Canucks "wanted to play hard for Marc," adding, "It was obviously a special thing for him to come back for the

first time." The Canucks have won just

CRICKET

Australia:156 and 176 for 3

parted under bitter circum- three of 13 games since Craw-Stars 4, Predators 3 Mike

Modano capped his second scoring the winning goal with 4:23 left, lifting Dallas to victory in Nashville. Joe Nieuwendyk got his 800th career point as the Stars

rallied from a 3-1 third-period deficit and extended their unbeaten streak to seven. Bruins 5, Sonators 2 Camer-

on Mann, a rookie right wing, scored Boston's final two goals as the Bruins snapped Ottawa's four-game winning streak. The Bruins won their second straight game. Ron Tugmutt, the Senators'

goalie, was chased from the net after the first period when the Bruins scored three goals on 14 shots, taking a 3-1 lead.

Tim Taylor, Jason Allison and Anson Carter scored Boston's other goals, and Shawn McEachern and Magnus Arvedson scored for Ottawa.

Olympic Probity Concerns Sponsors

While Openness Is Necessary, They Want Confidentiality, Too

The Associated Press

 Olympic sponsors want proper supervision and openness, but not too much.

"I think the sponsors are worried about too much oversight, too much government control that hampers the ability to put on the games," said Robert Garff, chairman of the Salt Lake Organizing Com-

A new era of openness and ethics was heralded by the committee during its Feb. 11 purge and reorganization. An ethics panel blamed two executives for more than \$1 million in cash payments, vacations, medical care, scholarships and shopping sprees that were lavished on international Olympic Committee members and their families. The IOC voted in June 1995 to give Salt Lake City the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Since the meeting earlier this month, the organizing committee's board has decided to keep all meetings and documents open unless there is a compelling reason to keep them secret. It has also added two top lawmakers to its policy board and called for trustees with conflicts of interest to resign.

With Governor Mike Leavitt of Utah giving a push, two ski resort owners and the owner of a construction company that is building the roof for the Olympic speedskating oval have resigned from the board.

Sponsors had called for an end to conflicts of interest on the board and generally lauded the reforms. But they hope the measures don't go too far.

"We understand the desire to make a good bit of this open as long as the integrity of negotiations are kept insaid Julie Davis, a

spokeswoman for Nations-SALT LAKE CITY, Utah Bank, which is expected to pay \$50 million to sponsor the 2002 Games and every U.S. Olympic team through 2004. The bank also is extending

a \$170 million line of credit to the Salt Lake Organizing Committee. But the fine points of the relationship will continue to be negotiated, and that should not be in public. Davis said.

"It's just not good business practice," she said. "From our perspective, you're giving out competitive information, and from SLOC's perspective it could hurt their negotiating position.

While the organizing committee tries to assure sponsors of confidentiality, lawmakers have passed bills such as one that sailed through the state House of Representatives by a 70-0 vote last week. It would open many of the organizers' contemporary internal records to anyone who asked for them.

"The public is saying 'We want openness' and we've come back and said, 'But the private sponsors want confidentiality,' " Garff said. But, he added: "Sponsors

want the public happy that's why they do it. Indeed, US West, which is

providing the games with \$60 million in cash and services, welcomes greater openness. "There wasn't enough of that before," said a spokesman, Michael Frandsen.

US West in January temporarily withheld a \$5 million payment to the committee, and paid up only when it was convinced real reform was underway. "It's conceivable the pen-

dulum could swing too far, but we're not there yet,"

SCOREBOARD

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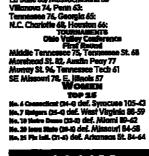
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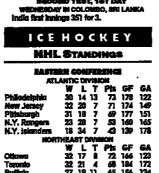
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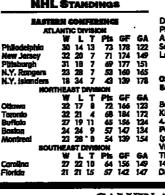
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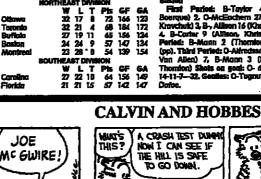
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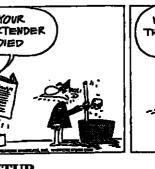


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ART BUCHWALD

Cross Connections

EW YORK — There was for other people on their cel-lular phones I could help. ers talked to themselves. Now A man was talking to his they are talking to their celmother. "Ma, I can't talk

you," he yelled, holding up phone. I'm screaming at my partner. Arnie. He iust sold our entire stock of \$10 missespetite dresses

for \$3,20." That's dumb," I said. Let me speak to him. Arnie. have you lost your mind? Three twenty won't even pay for the dress fabric. Arnie wanted to know who

"I'm a guy on Madison and 50th waiting to cross the handed me his phone. "It's street to get a hamburger. I my bookie. He wants to know don't have time to talk to you, when I'm paying him the but if you ever do this again \$300 I owe him. you're out of the firm."

lular phones. They are not now. So Sarah was rude to talking into their phones, they you on the phone — someare yelling into them. I was on times you're rude to her. Ma, I Madison and 50th and a man told you never to call me when I'm crossing a major 'Don't scream at me," I avenue. Where can you call me? I'm heading up Park Av-"I'm not screaming at enue, and with any luck I can cross the street at 57th and talk to you at the same time."

'Is that for me?'' I asked the man holding the phone.
"No," he said. "It's my mother."

"Let me talk to her," I said. "Ma, I can't come to dinner on Friday. I have to go to a Writer's Guild meeting.

"I know you're not my mother. You don't have to get huffy about it. I'll come next Friday. Your son is a fine boy. He's the only one who calls his mother from 5th and 59th. Everyone else is using up his battery to call the office.

At 3d and 67th a man

I took the phone, "He's I handed the phone back. It felt good, and I started to look number; he'll call you back."

An All-Nighter for a Monet Exhibit

The Associated Press ONDON - An exhibit of late paintings by Claude Monet ONDON — An exhibit of late paintings by Claude Monet has been so popular that the Royal Academy of Arts will stay open all night before the show's final day.

The museum anticipates that it will have sold out all 600,000 tickets by the time the show closes April 18, so it has decided to keep its doors open through the night of April 17 to allow another 8,000 visitors. An advance booking system lets 800 people at a time see the Impressionist show.

'I think it is only the second time in Europe that an art exhibition has been open all night," an Academy spokesman said Tuesday. "There was one for 'Vienna 1900' at the Pompidou Center in Paris about 10 years ago.

The "Monet in the 20th Century" show, whose 79 works depict the artist's garden at Giverny and views of London and Venice, has had 210,000 visitors since it opened.

A Casting Star Tries Out for the Director's Role

By Margy Rochlin New York Times Service

OS ANGELES - In 1973, Risa Bramon Garcia turned her first nobody into a star. His name was Martin, and she did not care that he had no acting experience. Garcia's instincts told her that he could play the kind of guy you would want to wash right out of

"It's not just that he had presence," said Garcia, who was then 16 and directing a high school production of "South Pacific." "He had a beautiful singing voice. I knew that because he used to sit also by MTV Films, a divi-behind me in history class and sion of MTV: Music Telebehind me in history class and

Now 42, Garcia still has ears and eyes for talent. Over the past 15 years she has become a top casting director in Hollywood, where it is part of her legend that she per-suaded the director John Hughes to give Macaulay Culkin his first job in "Uncle Buck" and nagged Jan De Bont until he let Sandra Bullock drive the bus in "Speed."

With "200 Cigarettes," which opens Friday in the United States, Garcia had only herself to hector. The 94-minute romantic comedy marks her debut as a feature film director, a career consolidation

that, for her, is long overdue.

"I always thought of casting as my waitressing job," Garcia said.
"I spent years discovering people so that everyone else could make money and become successful while I got to go home and wonder, 'How do I fulfill myself creatively?' Maybe that sounds horrifyingly selfish or self-serving, but it's really not the case. I got tired of

Written by Shana Larsen, "200 Cigarettes" is a comedy about young partygoers variously making their way to a downtown loft to celebrate New Year's Eve, 1981. The film opens with a couple squabbling in the back seat of a garishly decorated taxi as it

whizzes by their destination.

respecting teenager will know that the rasping voice of one passenger belongs to the rock star Courtney Love, who is following up her knowingly raunchy turn in "The People vs. Larry Flynt" by playing a talkative coquette. Members of the video-clip generation, though, will no doubt become aware that Love appears in "200 Cigarettes" weeks before they pay their movie tickets. "200 Cigarettes' was produced not just by Dogstar Films and Lakeshore Entertainment but

vision, which is a unit of Vi-In other words, Garcia's movie was made and will be promoted in a manner that is straight out of the vertical in-

tegration handbook. Formed in 1995, MTV Films develops projects that tap into the tastes of 15- to 25year-olds. Be it a mega-hit like "Beavis and Butthead Do America" or a blink-andyou'll-miss-it flop like "Dead Man on Campus," everything on MTV Films' slate is given blitzkrieg promotional treat-ment on the MTV channel.

By the time the half-hour special for the "200 Cigarettes" red-carpet premiere is shown on both MTV and its older-skewing cousin VH-1, regular viewers will have no doubt become familiar with a pair of

That will help them sort out the 16 principal "200 Cigarettes"

the series of 30-second "200 Cigarettes" spots combining interviews and behind-the-scenes foot-



Risa Bramon Garcia is making her directing debut with "200 Cigarettes."

Hawn's 19-year-old daughter, tionships she could just call them Kate Hudson.

"200 Cigarettes" signature rock evenings for a paltry \$6.5 million rettes." videos and committed to memory can flaunt so much hipster star On a wattage. But Garcia's ability to fill up the movie theater marquee, after all, was one of MTV Films' prime incentives in taking a chance on the fledgling filmmaker.

'Risa's passion for the material players, including Love, the teen attracted us to her," said Van crush-magnet Ben Affleck and his Toffler, MTV Films' executive

are Hudson. up and say, 'Hey, I need you for a Few movies made in 33 wintry couple of days on '200 Ciga-

On a side note, Toffler admitted to doing some casting of his own, talking the singer Elvis Costello into putting in a cameo appearance in "200 Cigarettes" and serving as sical consultant. "I think it's called begging,"

Toffler said. With so much riding on her con-

quabbling in the back seat of a brother, Casey, Christina Ricci and vice president. "The other thing nections, Garcia went about structural decorated taxi as it her real-life best friend, Gaby Hoff-was her relationship to the talent. turing a star-seducing production man, Janeane Garofalo, Martha Even with eyes closed, any self-Plimpton, Paul Rudd and Goldie first jobs. And through her rela-

for more than two and a half

The next thing she knew. Garcia was on location at the Ace Bar on Manhattan's East Fifth Street in the wee hours of the morning, standing behind the camera, cajoling Affleck into improvising self-mocking soliloquies for scale wages. "With every take, Ben would say: 'Risa! Please! Say 'ent' already! I'm making such a fool of myself," 'Gar-

cia said, laughing.
To directors like De Bont, it is no news that Garcia got Affleck to throw himself into his part as an oafish bartender. Having often employed her during her casting-director days, De Bont knew what Garcia could do with even an unknown quaking before her

at an audition.
"She'd pull things out of
them that they'd never do for me," De Bont said. "She has this uncanny way of playing with acrors, getting them to open up."

Early on in "200 Cigarettes," a young blond ingenue makes her entrance wearing a demure all-pink out-fit and an expression of guileless uncertainty. For a few mo-ments, she simply darts between her apartment building doorway and a taxi idling curbside and then back again.

The actress, Kate Hudson, is not instantly identifiable, but there is something winning about how she sails through this bit of daffy business, managing to evoke her mother, Goldie Hawn, yet also seem nothing like her at all.

"Kate's getting discovered from this movie — and I love that," said Garcia, who can recall every detail about Hudson's audition. "I swear to God, after she said three words, I knew she was exactly right." Can she explain what it felt like to know that she was the director who would benefit from precision casting? "Delicious," Garcia replied.

PEOPLE



GHOUL ON THE WALL - Roman Polanski, director of the 1967 "Fearless Vampire Killers," looking at a mask of the "Dracula" legend Bela Lugosi in a new vampire museum in Vienna's Raimund Theater. Naruhito, the son of Emperor Akihito

THE ACTOR Nigel Hawthorne had a little flashback to his television stardom in "Yes, Minister" as he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II. "The gentlemen in front and behind me were senior civil servants, so I was in good company," said Hawthome, who played the imperious civil servant Sir Humphrey Appleby on television in "Yes, Minister" and "Yes, Prime Minister." "But I played King George III—and I didn't get crowned today," he joked. Hawthorne, 70, said the ceremony Tuesday at Buckingham Palace was less intimidating than an Academy Awards night. "The Academy Awards are very disconcerting because you are in competition." Hawthorne said. 'whereas here you feel that you are among friends and you know you've already got the award."

As Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan celebrated his 39th birthday Tuesday, he said he felt pressured to produce an heir after nearly six years of marriage.

and Empress Michiko, is next in line for . der the imperial household law, only the throne. He married Crown Princess male descendants of the male line of the Masako in 1993 and they have no chil- imperial family may become emperor. dren. Asked by reporters about expectations for the birth of a son, Naruhito said, "I fully recognize the degree to which the people are interested in this, and the importance of the matter." Un-

Vice President Al Gore and his wife, Tipper, are soon to become grandparents. The Gores' daughter, Karenna

Disney's 'Mulan' Premieres in Shanghai The Associated Press

S HANGHAI — Disney's "Mulan," which had been rejected last year by China's cultural mandarins, has premiered in the homeland of its cartoon

The film, which opened Tuesday, is based on a Chinese tale about a woman China allows in only 10 foreign films a year to protect its own industry, and Disney had angered it two years ago with Martin Scorsese's "Kundun," a film

about Chinese rule in Tibet that was sympathetic to the Dalai Lama. Decisions on importing foreign movies usually relate to political and cultural considerations," the official Xinhua news agency said last month in

announcing that the censors had reversed their position. The movie will show for one month in Shanghai, possibly longer if it is a success. It is also expected to show in Beijing and other cities, although it was not immediately clear when.

Gore Schiff, 25, and her husband, Drew, 33, are expecting a baby in late June. "Al and I are thrilled about the prospect of becoming grandparents for the first time," Tipper Gore said in a statement.

The new Australian ambassador to Denmark, Stephen Brady, has intro-duced his partner, Peter Stevens, to Queen Margrethe, the Danish tabloid Extra Bladet reported Wednesday. It was the first time an envoy had officially introduced his homosexual partner to the royal family. In 1989, Denmark became the first nation in the world to allow civil marriages between homosexuals.

The model Claudia Schiffer has donated \$2 million to build homes for Honduran victims of the hurricane designated Mitch. The donation will fund the construction of 112 homes, officials said. The hurricane struck Central America in late October, killing more than 9,000 people and destroying hundreds of thousands of homes.



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